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**BTR-70
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- One build of Dragon's 1:35 Tiger I mid-production

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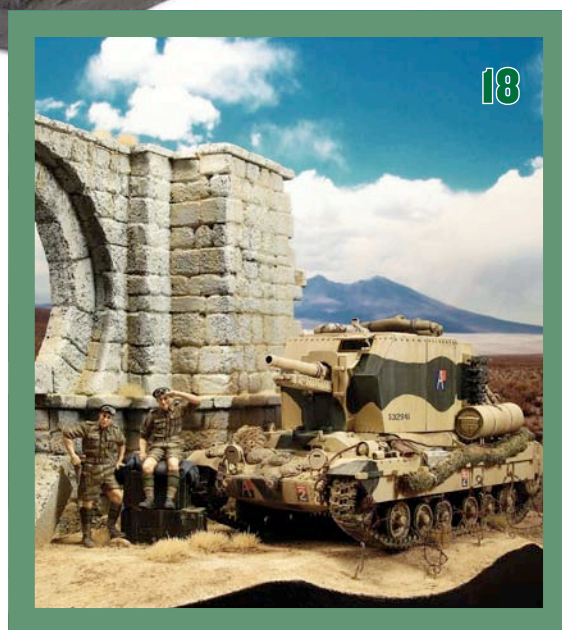
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NUTS AND BOLTS NEWEST TITLE Sd.Kfz. 7 – 8 ton Zugkraftwagen Krauss-Maffai and variants

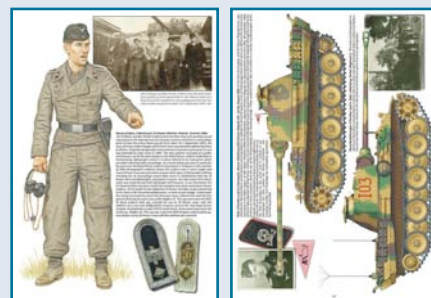
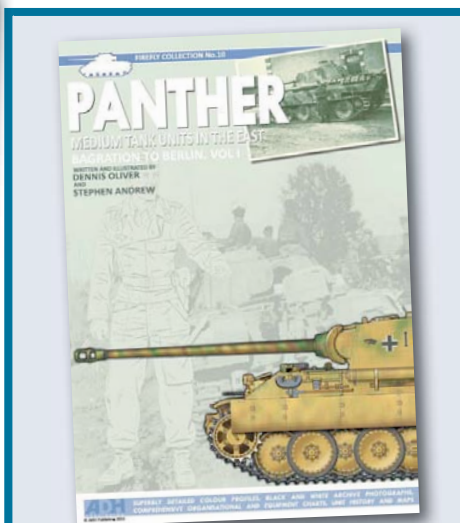
One of the most interesting military vehicle developments of the German Reichswehr and Wehrmacht was halftrack tractors.

Based on experience from the First World War, development started at the end of the 1920s. From the six types of un-armoured halftrack vehicles (1 tonne / 3 tonne / 5 tonne / 8 tonne / 12 tonne / 18 tonne) developed from the early years and beginning in 1930, the main vehicle was the 8 ton halftrack Sd.Kfz. 7.

This vehicle, which served in many differing deployments, and which had the highest production numbers, was produced from 1935 - 1945. Dr. Nicolaus Hettler, who has already described the halftrack vehicles 18 tonne Sd.Kfz.9 (Nuts & Bolts No. 12) / 12 tonne Sd.Kfz.8 (Nuts & Bolts No. 16) und 3 tonne Sd.Kfz.11 (Nuts & Bolts No. 20), continues these series with the halftrack 8 tonne Sd.Kfz.7 (Nuts & Bolts No. 34).

This new title is 184 pages A4, glue-bound, with more than 330 black and white photos from manuals and combat, a number of them previously unpublished; 133 colour photos of surviving vehicles in public and private collections, 32 colour photos of the three models from T.Greenland, V. Branigan und G. Marti i Pujol, 6 charts, 31 pages of scale drawings of all versions and details in 1:35 scale from John Rue, 20 camouflage schemes from Laurent Lecocq, plus tables of organization of units.

Thanks to Nuts & Bolts for the information and images www.nuts-bolts.de



NEW PANTHER BOOK FROM OLIVER PUBLISHING

The Oliver Publishing Group's latest title is "Panther, Medium Tank Units in The East, Bagration To Berlin". Volume 1 is available to order now from ADH Publishing.

This book is Number 10 in the Firefly Collection and is in the same format and size as all the previous books - that means 36 pages in total (including front and back covers) with 13 pages of colour illustrations by Dennis Oliver and Stephen Andrew.

As always, the book will contain black and white archive photos, maps, diagrams and more.

The second volume should be completed in mid-November and later Oliver Publishing will also be releasing "Tiger. Heavy Tank Units in The East. Bagration To Berlin". Volume 1 and 2.

Thanks to The Oliver Publishing Group for the information and images.

Oliver Publishing Group books are available from ADH Publishing www.adhbooks.com



NEW TOW CABLE RELEASES FROM RMG

RMG is about to release several new products. Some of these are in the range of tow cable sets.

RMG will release a total of 22 new sets of tow cables in 1:35 scale from both WWII and modern. The detailed packages will include resin eyes and metal cables in copper that are very flexible.

The first three have already been released and are shown on RMG website. More will follow.

Please note that these products are currently works-in-progress and will be released in the near future. In the meantime, they may be pre-ordered from the RMG website.

Thanks to RMG Models for the images and information www.rmgresinmodels.com





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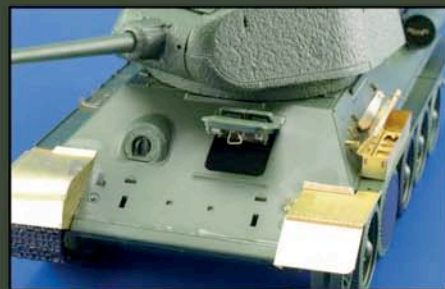
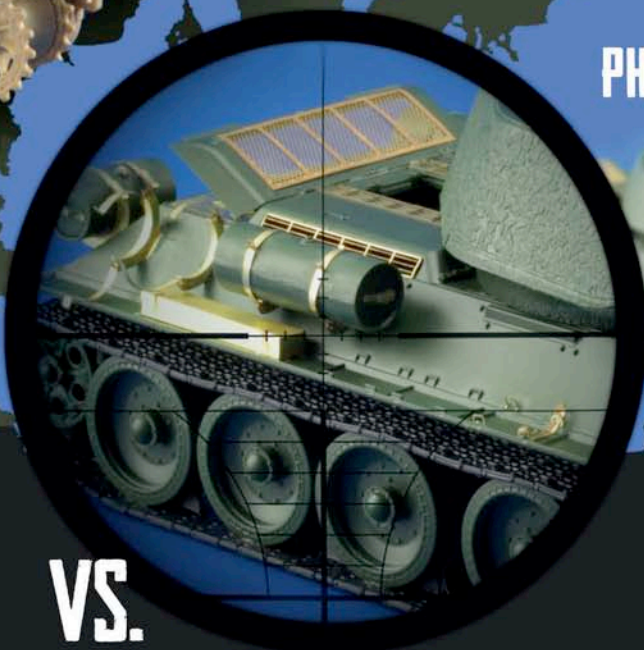


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Side view of the GAZ 50 in the Kubinka Tank Museum (photo - Владимир Саппинен)

BTR-70

Stuart Ransley discusses the history, development and deployment of the Soviet BTR-70 amphibious armoured personnel carrier.

The BTR-70 is an eight-wheeled, amphibious armoured personnel carrier. It was originally developed for the Soviet Military during the late 1960s as a replacement for the earlier BTR-60PB.

The new vehicle incorporated many improvements including better armour protection, power to weight ratio and provision of more firing ports for passengers.

The BTR-70 was accepted into service in late 1972 and was first seen in public in 1978.

It would later be exported to the Warsaw Pact and other allies and made its combat debut during the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

HISTORY

In March 1969, the Chinese and Soviet armies had a minor border clash at Zhenbao Island, also known as Damanskii Island by the Russians. This action saw the combat debut of the new BTR 60 eight-wheeled Armoured Personnel Carrier.

Six vehicles were used but their performance was found to be less than satisfactory. The main problem was that the vehicle was open topped so gave no protection against artillery or small arms fire from multiple floor buildings.

New versions of the BTR 60 were soon developed. The BTR-60PA introduced an armoured roof over the vehicle but the main armament was an open 12.7mm heavy machine gun and the crew had to stand in an open hatch to operate it, not a good situation to be in particular on a Nuclear, Biological or Chemical battlefield. This situation saw the introduction of a fully enclosed turret and 14.5mm gun added to the BTR-60. This new variant was given the designation BTR-60PB.

The BTR-60 series had a number of drawbacks and problems. When exiting the vehicle, the Infantry section had to use the hatches on the roof or high on the sides which gave them little protection.

Using experience gained from both the BTR-60 and the BMP-1

tracked infantry fighting vehicle, the Soviets developed the GAZ-50. This was an eight-wheeled armoured vehicle, lower and wider than the BTR-60 and fitted with the BMP-1's turret. Although it was not accepted into service, the design

was later developed into the GAZ-4905, which became known as the BTR-70 and was accepted into service in August 1972. Production began at the Gorky Automotive Plant from 1976 until 1986, when it was replaced by the BTR-80.



Front view of the GAZ-50 in the Kubinka Tank Museum. This vehicle was used as the basis for the design of the BTR 70 (photo - Hornet Driver)



Side view of an early production BTR 70 at Victory Park, Kazan. (Photo - V Kuzmin)

DESCRIPTION

The hull of the BTR-70 is constructed of all-welded steel plates and gives protection against weapons up to 12.7mm calibre over the frontal arc. The vehicle commander sits at the front right hand side with the driver on the front left side. Both have a single-piece hatch that opens at a 45 deg angle to the centre of the vehicle.

The driver's optical equipment consists of three TNPO-115 vision blocks and a TNP-B day vision device, which can be replaced by a TVNO-2B night vision device. The commander also has three TNPO-115s and either a TPKU-2B day sight or a TKN-1S night sight accompanied by an OU-3GA-2 infrared search light.

The main armament is mounted in a turret above the second axle. Behind this is the troop compartment, which has six firing ports (three on each side) and two vision blocks (one each side).

There is provision for six troops in the compartment, three per side sitting back to back. Access to the troop compartment is via two side hatches positioned between the second and third axles in the hull sides and via two square roof hatches.

The engine compartment is at the rear of the vehicle and is fitted with a fire-extinguishing system. The BTR-70 is also fitted with an FVU NBC filter system and a DK-3B detection device, a central tyre pressure system, which allows the driver to adjust the tyre-pressure to suit the terrain being crossed. ►



Rear view of an early production BTR 70 at Victory Park, Kazan. (Photo - V Kuzmin)



Side view of an early production BTR 70 at Victory Park, Kazan. The white colouring is a layer of frost (Photo - V Kuzmin).



Think Tank - BTR-70

PERFORMANCE

Early production vehicles were fitted with two 115 hp GAZ-69B 6-cylinder engines, but most vehicles were upgraded with the more powerful ZMZ-49-05 V-8 engines.

Steering is power assisted through the front two axles. The vehicle is fully amphibious, with minimal preparation. It is propelled, when afloat by a single water jet mounted at the rear of the hull.

ARMAMENT

The BTR-70 is armed with a 14.5mm KPVT heavy machine gun and a 7.62mm PKT machine gun mounted coaxially. 500 rounds of 14.5mm and 2000 rounds of

7.62mm are carried. The turret is fitted with a PP-61AM (or 1PZ-2) periscopic sight for the gunner. Some BTR 70s seen in Afghanistan with an AGS-17 30mm grenade launcher mounted on the top of the turret.

VARIANTS

There have been many variants produced due to upgrades and modifications by users of the BTR-70. Some of these are listed below:

- BTR-70 obr. 1978 - Initial production version
- BTR-70 obr. 1982 - Improved performance with 120 hp ZMZ-49-05 V-8 engines, instead of the original GAZ-49B 115 hp 6-cylinder engines.

Combat experience in Afghanistan began to expose problems with the BTR-70. It was found that the petrol engines of the vehicle overheated in the Afghan summer. Many photos show BTR-70s with their engine covers open, this and the use of petrol engines created further risk of fire engulfing the vehicle if it took a hit. On many occasions the main gun on the BTR-70 could not elevate high enough to engage the Mujahedeen Fighters in the mountainous terrain of Afghanistan, so a new turret that allowed higher gun elevation was fitted. Many vehicles had a AGS17 30mm Grenade Launcher fitted to the top of the turret. Firing ports were also fitted to the roof of the troop compartment.

- BTR-70 obr. 1984 - Additional TNPT-1 periscope fitted to the turret roof.
- BTR-70 M1986/1 - improved turret allowing a higher angle of elevation for the main gun, modified wave deflector, additional side armor brackets, and top mounted firing ports.
- BTR-70V - This variant was fitted with the BPU-1 turret of the BTR-80. The turret was fitted with a 1PZ-2 sight, but without the smoke grenade launchers at the back turret.
- BTR-70M - Modernized variant with the turret, diesel engine and rear hull section of the BTR-80.
- SPR-2 "Rtut-B" - Electronic warfare variant,
- BTR-70K - Command vehicle with

additional radios, several whip antennas, navigation device and a portable generator.

- BTR-70KShM - Command/Staff vehicle, designed to be used as a mobile command post.
- 15Ya56M MBP - base security vehicle for Strategic Rocket units.

East-Germany

- SPW 70 - NVA designation for the Romanian-made BTR-70. East Germany received 1,316 vehicles between 1980 and 1990.
- SPW 70(S) - Locally converted Command vehicle
- SPW 70(SL) - Forward air control vehicle

Romania

Romania produced the BTR-70 under license (for export) and went on to develop their own version.

- TAB-77 - The original petrol engines were replaced with Saviem 797-05M1 132 hp diesel engines.
- TAB-77A PCOMA - artillery command and forward observer vehicle
- TAB-77A R-1451/M - command vehicle. Similar to the basic APC, but with a rear-mounted generator and additional antennas.
- TAB-77A R-1452 - Communications vehicle with dummy turret, seven antennas, a telescopic mast, two generators at the rear and a pintle-mounted machine gun on the hull roof.
- TERA-77L - recovery vehicle with a 5t crane and a dozer blade. ■



Left side view of an early-production BTR 70 at the Verkhnyaya Pyshma Tank Museum. (photo - Владимир Саппинен)



Front view of an early-production BTR 70 at the Verkhnyaya Pyshma Tank Museum. (photo - Владимир Саппинен)



Right Side view of an early-production BTR 70 at the Verkhnyaya Pyshma Tank Museum. (photo - Владимир Саппинен)



Left side view of a late production BTR 70. This vehicle is fitted with add on armour (photo by ShinePhantom).



Close up of the front of an early-production BTR 70 at the Verkhnyaya Pyshma Tank Museum.
(photo - Владимир Саппинен)



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Front view of a late production BTR 70. (Photo - V Kuzmin)



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Right front view of a late production BTR 70. (Photo - V Kuzmin)



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Side view of a late production BTR 70. (Photo - V Kuzmin)



Right side view of a late production BTR 70. This vehicle is fitted with add-on armour (photo - ShinePhantom).





East German SPW-70 (photo - Alf Van Beem).



Side view of a Romanian TAB 77 (photo - locotenent Bogdan Rădulescu).



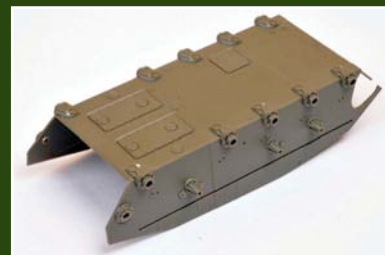
Romanian Army Soldiers enter the top and side hatches of their TAB-77 (8X8) Armored Personnel Carrier (APC), as they prepare to lead a convoy of multi-national vehicles from Kandahar Airfield to Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan. The purpose of the convoy is to gather information and to help with a road reconstruction project in Afghanistan during Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. (Photo - SGT Vernell Hall US Dept of Defence)

Romanian Army TAB 77 near Kandahar Airfield Afghanistan (photo - SGT Vernell Hall).





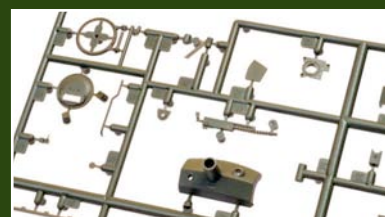
The well-detailed flexible vinyl tracks.



The one-piece lower hull.



The main turret part is an impressive piece of moulding.



Quality of moulding is excellent.



The large upper hull section.



See through grilles – nice touch.



Plastic wheels with separate plastic tyres.



On-vehicle equipment.

PANTHER CUB

Al Bowie examines the latest 1:35 Chaffee to hit the market – this time from AFV Club.

The M24 Chaffee has always been a popular modelling subject but until recently there was only the very old Renwal or Adams M24 from the 1960s or the Italeri offering from the 1970s, which has been rereleased regularly with various changes over the years.

Recently both AFV Club and Bronco saw fit to breathe life into the subject with state of the art kits of the M24 in a number of different versions. The Bronco kit was exceptionally well received when first released but was a very complex and fiddly kit to build.

I am pleased to say that AFV's release not only maintains their excellent reputation for detail and accuracy but appears to be a lot easier to build than the Bronco Example. The kit contains 270 plastic parts with two photo-etched frets, two metal springs and two vinyl track runs.

It offers a very detailed suspension with internal torsion bars but beware there are a few very fine and small parts. This could be made poseable or even working with a little care. The breakup of the drive sprockets allows the characteristic lightening and mud clearance holes to be present as it does in the idlers.

The road wheels have separate tyre rims, which gives them a very natural appearance when assembled and I pleased that AFV did these in styrene rather than vinyl. The lower hull is a one piece tub with a rear plate to be added giving it a lot of strength whilst the upper deck is one piece having two separate engine covers. All hatches are positionable with full interior detailing including clear periscopes and locking latches in

the hull surround. Deck handles are providing in very fine plastic requiring careful removal from the sprue with a very sharp pair of cutters or scalpel. The vinyl tracks are very detailed and joined by a small metal pin like the real thing.

The kit supplies the fenders as separate parts to the hull with PE bracing. Fenders are supplied as one piece for the full length however these are easily separated into the individual plates for partial fits. The underlying mounting frame is provided separately. A photo-etched stowage rack also is supplied to add to the hull rear. Like most AFV kits this one supplies a spring to allow for barrel recoil that in my opinion adds little to the finished product and is a bit gimmicky. The gun is well depicted with full breach detail including guards and a mounted M1919A4 coax machine gun. No other interior detail is provided.

The turret is well moulded capturing the complex curves well and includes casting numbers on the mantlet. Cast parts are well textured in a realistic subtle finish. The turret mounted .50 cal is one of the best available in this scale with a fully detailed mount including the travel locking clamps and brackets and separate charging handle. Additional sprues give spare .50 cal including with the air cooled perforated barrel, a dismantled .50 cal and .30

cals plus various ammo cans and mounts, very useful indeed. The Commander's cupola is provided in clear styrene as well as a driver's foul weather windscreen although the instructions do not give you the option of installing this. Headlights and tail lights are also provided with clear styrene lenses.

The markings have been intensively researched and offer four OD schemes:

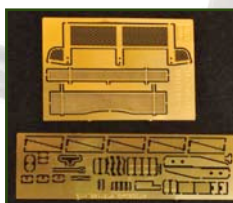
- 81st Reconnaissance Squadron 1st Armoured Division Italy 1945 in OD
- 36th Tank Bn, 8 Armd Div, Rheinburg, Germany Mar 45 in OD (Vehicle 9)
- 36th Tank Bn, 8 Armd Div, Rheinburg, Germany Mar 45 in OD (Vehicle 13)
- 2nd Armoured Cavalry Group, Germany April 1945 in OD

Finally in the early boxing's of this kit AFV have provided an excellent resin commander figure in flowing greatcoat firing the turret AA gun from the rear deck. This is an excellent addition kit of an attractive vehicle giving you the ability to build an early production WWII variant. The detail is excellent and whilst the kit is a little complex in places it is well within the capabilities of the average modeller. It has some photo-etch but these again should prove to be within the skill range of the average modeller.

Review kit purchased by reviewer. ■



The resin limited edition machine gunner.



The kit supplies to photo-etched frets.



The kit's decal sheet.

AMPHIBIOUS IN AFGHANISTAN

Andrew Judson adds some Soviet Infantry Riders to Trumpeter's 1:35 scale BTR-70 APC.



The subject of the Afghanistan war has always been a great interest of mine, right from the 1970s when the Russians were there, until current times.

Being primarily a builder of modern armour, there is now a wealth of subjects one can now do from this war alone and the current era.

I have had the Trumpeter BTR-70 in my collection for quite some time and after watching some YouTube videos and reading a book, "The Bear Went Over The Mountain, Soviet Combat Tactics In Afghanistan", by Lester W Grau, I decided then and there that I was going to build myself a BTR, so out came the kit.

IN THE BOX

The Trumpeter 1:35 scale BTR-70 is a very nice model and mine was built pretty much straight from the box except for the wheels. There is plenty of detail throughout with a beautifully detailed underside and also an interior, allowing one the option of leaving all the hatches open if desired. The turret also has interior details, great if you want to do a destroyed variant or use the turret in another project such as on a Hilux as seen in Syria today.

Getting to the kit itself, there are 20 sprues, two body halves, two photo-etched frets, eight vinyl tyres and a sheet of decals, adding up to a total of 456 parts. All the parts were well moulded, requiring only minimal cleanup.

BUILDING THE BTR

The build started with the upper half, assembling all the basic parts and drilling out holes for later stages, followed by the lower, with the suspension taking up the next four stages. Care was needed to ensure everything was correctly aligned, otherwise there would be problems with all wheels touching the ground. I found this to be complex but not over-the-top.

The next two stages were the interior, which is quite complete, but you could really go to town with scratch building and aftermarket gear if

you wanted to. My thoughts were, it's going to be pretty much closed up, so no need to go to far.

Then there was the further building of the upper half adding the rest of the details and etch.

I was very impressed with the rear engine screens even though they are tricky as presented in the kit. They look very nice and there is no need to change for aftermarket in my opinion.

At this stage, it was time to paint the interior, beginning with a coat of Tamiya XF-2, Flat White, then from there a dirty brown wash followed by the finer details, well and truly knowing that none of this would be seen once all together.

After this was done, I glued the two halves of the kit together and taped for support to ensure a good seal.

While this was drying, I moved onto the turret, which also has an interior. I did not see a reason to fully complete or paint this area, as nothing at all would be seen, even if hatches were all open. A note to anyone who wishes to build this kit, if you were to build a destroyed variant, with turret off, then yes, you would complete all and go to town on the interior. Hmm - future project? No!

PAINTING

With construction completed I then began to prepare for painting.

The first step was using Tamiya texture products to replicate dust and built up dirt on the underside and with in the wheel wells of the vehicle. This product is great for delivering either fine or course textures, allowing you to do light and heavy build ups of grime.

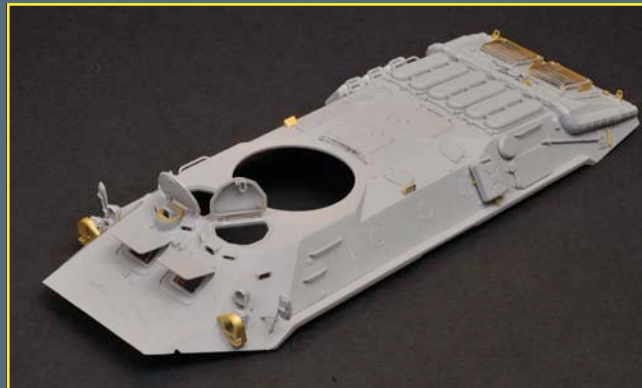
I then got out my Badger Velocity Airbrush and loaded her up with AK Interactive's AH 3020, Russian Green, perfect for vehicles of that era. I've never used this before, though I do have to say, I found it went on very well, very impressive, and dries with a nice finish.

With the base colour on, I then applied the decals, being from Bison, Item No. 35101, for Russian Vehicles in Afghanistan. I used a set that was for a vehicle from the 186 Spetsnaz Battalion in Shahjoi. These went on without hassle, using Gunze Mark Softer to apply.

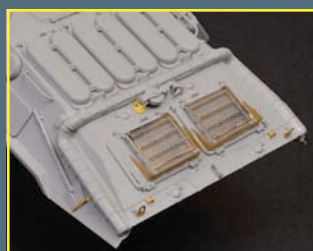
WEATHERING

And now to weather this beast.

To start, I applied two coats of True Earth Fading Number One over the upper deck, sides and wheels. This was done one coat at a time, allowing for drying in between to both fade the paint down a little and also give a appearance of built up dust in



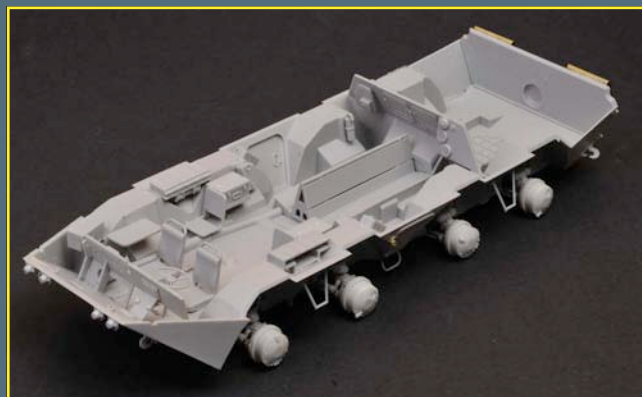
Upper hull with plastic and photo-etched parts glued in place.



The lovely fine photo-etched grille.



Hatches were posed open.



A decent interior is supplied straight from the box.



Intricate suspension assemblies.



The wheels were replaced with resin after-market items.



MasterClub figures were used for the riders and crew.



Detail of the resin figures is excellent.



The basic paint colour was AK Interactive AH 3020, Russian Green.



The resin wheels, suitably weathered.

◀ areas. I find this to be a very useful and effective product.

After this I then applied a light wash over panel lines, around bolts, the wheels and anywhere that I could enhance the detail. I then left this to dry, and then went over it again with another coat. To do this I used True Earth Light Ageing.

FADING AND PIGMENTS

Once the wash was dry, I then started to dry brush (I know, old school) True Earth Red Oxide Primer around the edges of areas that would get a lot of traffic, wear and tear, as a lot of pics I looked at were quite beaten showing the primer through the paintwork. With this done, I was actually thinking I had ruined the kit until I applied another coat of the fading agent that brought everything together. Phew!

After the coat of fading, I realised that it had taken away a lot of the detail from the wash so I then applied General Ageing, a darker wash, which left a great finish.

Lastly, to finish everything off, I mixed up a wet slurry of various Mig pigments, and then applied this to areas of the vehicle where dirt and dust would build up. This was left to dry and then gently with a soft broad flat brush, dusted off until I had the effect I was after. I then added a couple of drops of Mig Pigment fixer to keep all in place. I also made up a couple of other earth tones of slurry and using a flat brush flicked this over the vehicles sides and over the wheels. This was allowed to dry and then toned down leaving quite a nice finish.

I was now calling the kit finished and moved onto the next stage.



I applied two coats of True Earth Fading Number One over the upper deck, sides and wheels.

After this I then applied a light wash over panel lines, around bolts, the wheels and anywhere that I could enhance the detail.





I mixed up a wet slurry of various Mig pigments, and then applied this to areas of the vehicle where dirt and dust would build up.



The figures were painted using the Citadel range of acrylics from Games Workshop.

FIGURES

I always had it in mind that I was going to use figures on this project, but hadn't decided how many or whether on, in or walking by the vehicle's side.

Going through my vast stash of figures, I decided they would all be riding on the vehicle.

I chose seven Masterclub figures depicted in Afghanistan, two crew, the rest being Spetsnaz riders. These were all built and prepared for painting, the advantage being, that I could make a production line and paint them all at the same time, due to the colours being pretty much the same.

All were painted using the Citadel range of paints from Games Workshop. I find these to be excellent paints with a great range of colours and mixing and blending qualities. To enhance details on the uniforms equipment and faces, I used the Citadel range of washes, these too working very well. Once all completed, I individually glued them in place and then gave them a light dusting of pigments.

The entire vehicle was now done and I could start on the base.

BASE

The base consisted of a wooden board purchased from the local hardware store, topped by modelling clay, which I moulded into shape. I wanted this to appear as a very rough, unkempt track.

With the clay down, I pushed various sized small rocks into it and also Tamiya texture paint over areas, coated this with diluted down white glue and left it to dry.

Right through the making of the base I kept checking that the vehicle was going to sit flat with all the wheels on the ground. A little

bit of mucking around was required here, but it all worked out.

Once dry, I used seed pods from a plant in my garden to add a little plant life.

With the base finished I then glued the vehicle down using speed glue, and then dusted up around the wheels to blend everything all together. The project was now completed.

CONCLUSION

I thoroughly enjoyed doing this project from start to finish, and I must say that Trumpeter's kit is just stunning to build without any problems - a real pleasure. The Masterclub figures are also brilliant

- well sculpted, easy to prepare and going together without a hitch. I hope that you enjoy looking at this as I did building it! Happy modelling to all. ■

Modelspec

Trumpeter 1:35 BTR70 APC Late Version Kit No 01591

Accessories Used:

Bison Decals, Afghanistan vehicles. Item No. 35101
Masterclub figures x7

Paints & Finishing Products:

AKAH3020, Russian Green
Tamiya XF1 Flat Black; XF2 Flat white
True Earth Fading #1, General Ageing, Light Ageing,
Red Oxide Primer
Mig Pigments Various, fixer
Citadel Paints

- ☒ High level of detail; interior included; good fit.
- ☒ Vinyl wheels.

Available from

Trumpeter kits are available from hobby retailers worldwide.

Rating ●●●●●●●○



The base consisted of a wooden board purchased from the local hardware store, topped by modelling clay.



NEO's TRN2 comes beautifully packaged. Open the box and you are greeted by a dense foam tray that holds the brush and accessories firmly in place.



The TRN2 is beautifully designed and superbly produced.

NEO FOR IWATA TRN2

Ergonomic excellence and features aplenty - in one, cut-price package...
Written by Spencer Pollard

Over the years, Iwata has built up a solid reputation for producing high quality airbrushes, compressors and accessories that can be used across a wide spectrum of disciplines, from fine art, through car finishing and on to model making. Their products all share superb build quality and machine tolerance in common, but that comes at a price, many of their airbrushes perhaps being

out of reach of enthusiasts on a budget. Enter the NEO range, made for Iwata with continued levels of quality, but at a lower price. This month we look at their latest release, the TRN2.

Most of you reading this will be familiar with a traditional airbrush and their compact design. You have a body, filled with a needle that travels into a nozzle, air and paint being controlled by the depression of the trigger and

its movement backwards, both actions being carried out with a single finger. Not everyone can accurately manipulate the trigger in this way and so recently a different design has become widespread, the brush looking more like a traditional spray gun complete with handle and trigger. The idea is that this is both easier to hold and thanks to one single action of drawing the trigger back to both release the

air and then regulate the amount of paint passing through the finely machined head assembly, easier to use.

This new airbrush is the second of these 'pistol grip' airbrushes released within the NEO range, this one being fitted with alternative side cups, whereas the earlier TRN1 was fitted with a gravity-feed cup fitted to the top of the main body. In terms of specifics, this new set features the



In the hand, the TRN2 feels solid and comfortable.



The trigger fits neatly against the finger and travels back and forth smoothly and accurately, with no evidence of play in the mechanism.



The rear of the brush features a standard locking mechanism for the needle, as well as a smoothly machined travel lock that allows the user to set the distance that the needle will move backwards, once in use.



Each of the cups is held in place with these threaded collets. No more losing the cup, mid session!



- following:
- Larger 0.5 mm needle and nozzle combination for high performance, general purpose, high paint flow spraying and wider spray patterns
 - 0.5 mm nozzle suitable for thicker or heavier paints
 - Includes a 7 ml (1/4oz) and 14 ml (1/2oz) gravity side feed cup and a 28 ml (1oz) Iwata Big Mouth Bottle (also compatible with other sizes of Big Mouth Bottles and Iwata bottles)
 - Fine detail to 1.5" (0.5 mm to 38 mm) spray pattern with the one size nozzle
 - Unique pistol trigger
 - Ergonomic handle design adding even more comfort whilst holding your pistol trigger airbrush
 - Pre-set handle for easy and precise control of paint flow
 - Dual-action
 - Internal-mix
 - Side-feed
 - PTFE needle packing and solvent-resistant in all paint-bearing areas.
 - Air Pressure: Recommended operation is between 10 - 60 psi.
- The brush is supplied in an attractive box, the TRN2 and all of the accessories being packaged within a tidy,

The accessories supplied with the airbrush, 7 & 14 ml gravity feed cups and the 'Iwata Big Mouth Bottle' and adapter.

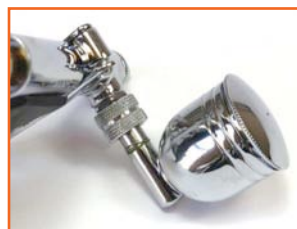
high-density foam tray. Further examination reveals a product that features many of the Iwata design traits: excellent assembly; beautifully machined parts coated in a perfectly chromed finish; smooth moving parts and neat touches of detail that reinforce the idea that you have bought a quality package.

In the hand, the brush feels solid and well balanced. I have large hands, so I was worried that it would feel odd in use - not a bit of it. The trigger seemed to be almost exactly the right size, the main body resting comfortably across my clenched fist with little in the way of discomfort. Happy that the brush felt right, the trigger could be pulled back; having played with other similar brushes, I'd occasionally felt that the trigger could have been smoother in action, slight play and a looseness in action, making it difficult to find the right 'biting point' prior to the release of paint. Here, there were no such concerns, the trigger being solid and the travel backwards and forwards, precise and accurate. Such tolerances can be found all over this new brush from the screw threads that allow to removal of the various individual pieces, through to the fit of the plastic handle that covers the underside of the main body, everything fits perfectly, with zero evidence of ragged edges or poorly engineered components.

Along with the actual airbrush the kit supplies a number of metal side cups, together with an adapter from which hangs a large plastic bottle. Unlike other airbrushes where the side cups fit in place using friction joints, these ones are held in place



An adapter is supplied to allow the use of a large plastic 'Iwata Big Mouth Bottle'...



Two different side cups are supplied, this one being the larger 14 ml gravity feed cup.



...Seen here in place.

with threaded collects that wrap around the mount that's fixed to the side of the brush. Having had more than my fair share of cups part company with the brush - resulting in plenty of paint over me and the bench - this is a very good concept and helps further the idea of a carefully thought out product that covers all bases. As with the actual airbrush, the cups are beautifully moulded, with excellent chrome finishes, each being fitted with individual lids and retaining collets as standard.

In use, the TRN2 is a piece of cake to operate. Simply fix a cup to the side of the brush, fill with some suitably thinned paint and away you go. Using a 50/50 mix of paint and thinners and the compressor set to 20psi, the paint atomised perfectly, allowing lines from around 1 mm all the way up to around 35 mm depending on the position of the trigger and distance that the nozzle is held from the surface of the item being sprayed. Though conditioned to use a traditional airbrush, it took only a few minutes to feel comfortable with the TRN2 in hand, the odd position of the trigger feeling comfortable and intuitive in use. Though it may take me a little

while to be happy enough with it to contemplate intricate camouflage patterns, I am certain that they would be well within reach, a little practice being needed to accomplish such tasks.

FINAL VERDICT

This is another fine addition to the NEO range. It is beautifully manufactured, works flawlessly and offers a large number of set-up options, so should cover almost every spraying task you may need to carry out. At £130, it also represents very good value. We often talk about cost cutting and getting what you pay for; here, that is a fine addition to your workshop for years to come and if anything goes wrong with it - which I guess is possible - you have the peace of mind of a 5-year warranty to get the problem sorted out.

We really can't recommend this fine airbrush highly enough and look forward to using it during some of our up-coming projects later this year.

Thanks to the Airbrush Company for the review sample. ■



The 0.5 mm head assembly shows off for the camera.

THE BISHOP OF BENGHAZI





José Brito sets Bronco's new 1:35 scale Bishop self-propelled gun in North Africa, 1942.

Since I became a WWII history enthusiast and a military scale modeller, the North African scenario always was one of my main interests. With that in mind, when Bronco released their Bishop model, I took the opportunity to build another model from this period of WWII.

The Bishop from Bronco is a lovely model presented under beautiful box-art, in this case representing a tank from the 121st Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, Libya 1942. The artwork is inspired in a well-known picture about this tank, the Bishop S32941.



IN THE BOX

When we open the box we are presented with flawless plastic parts, individual plastic track links, clear parts, photo-etch parts, crisply printed decals, clear and concise instructions and printed colour plates.

The kit is accurate and precise. Fit is top quality, but construction will take a significant amount of time and will need some extra patience and care. Some of the parts are really, really small and could have been moulded together. This kit is not for the beginner and besides extra patience, we will need some adequate tools and materials to finish the job.

In the end, I'm very happy with the final result and, after my Miniart's Valentine, I can add another North Africa campaign model to my collection. ►

Construction

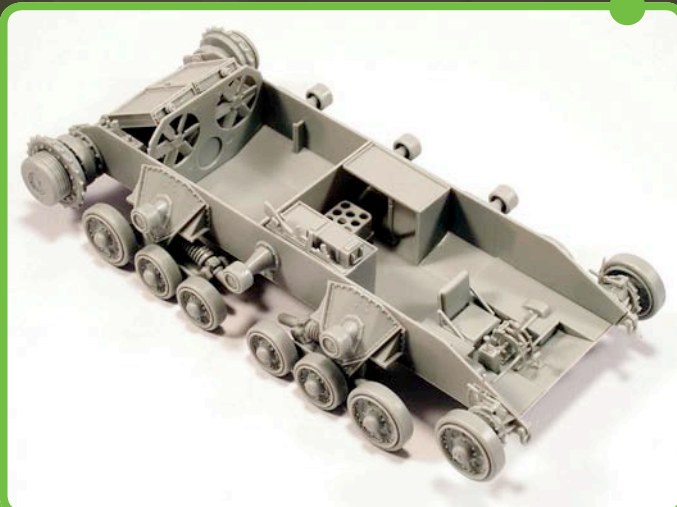
The Bishop is tank with lots of highly visible interior parts. The interior is well detailed and construction quite straightforward.



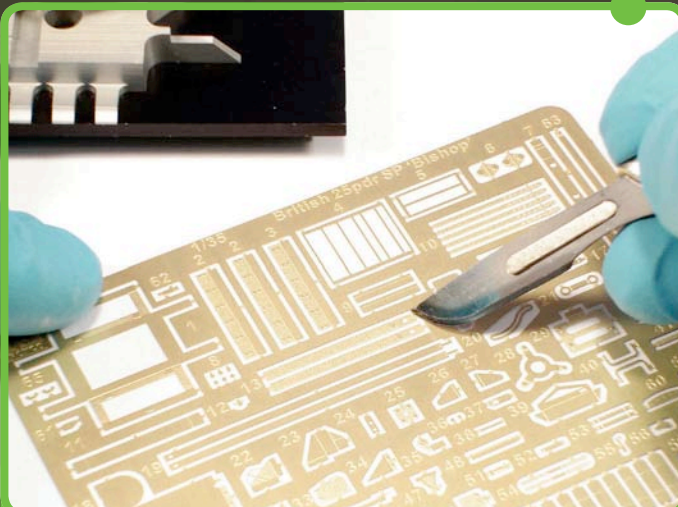
To reach all the small details, I usually use Deluxe Materials Plastic Magic Glue. For the best results I use their Pin Magic applicator. The Pin Magic applicator will allow an ultra-control, because the Plastic Magic Glue is ultra-thin. Being so thin, it is ideal to work using the capillary method.



The kit also provides engine parts and once the hatches open, everything will be exposed, so we need to take some extra care in all those spots. Several different types of glues were used and as usual, my choice is always the products from Deluxe Materials.



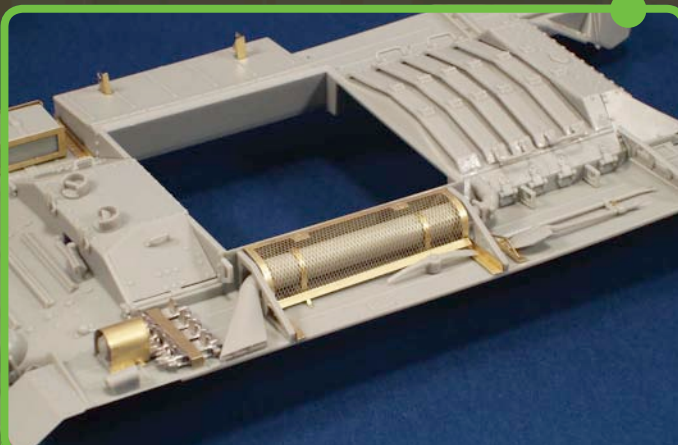
The Bronco kit details are lovely and once everything in place, our model starts to take shape. Despite construction being straightforward, the kit is so detailed that even the simple steps will take some extra time to finish.



Bronco also provides a photo-etched fret. It covers the entire model and definitely will improve the final look of our model. The metal parts are extremely fine and very well made.



RP Toolz tools are extremely useful when we need to add that extra touch of accuracy and realism to our model. They are very easy to use and we can make a wide variety of head bolts. The gun is a "kit inside the kit" and extremely well detailed. Even so, we always find some space for some scratch work. That's why some people call us the "rivet counters"!



Lots of details were added during the construction. All those small details will improve the final look of our model. Once combined, the model will have that extra touch of accuracy and visual interest.

Tracks



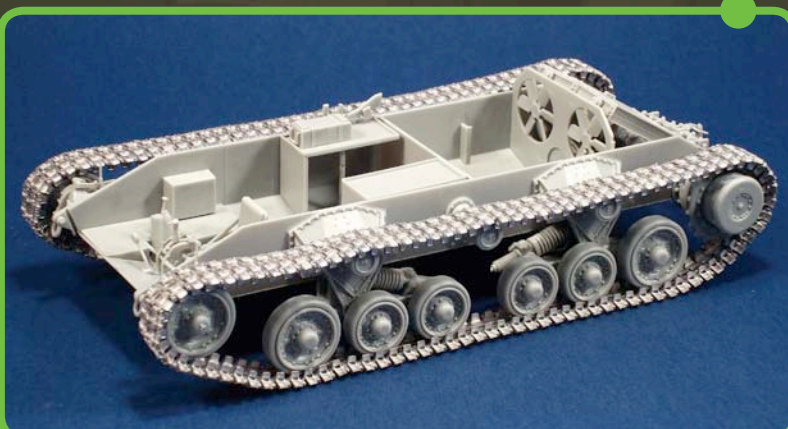
Mirror Models Track Link Tool is a very useful tool when it comes to assemble individual track links. It's very well-engineered and can be used to assemble metallic, plastic or resin tracks. This really a time saver.



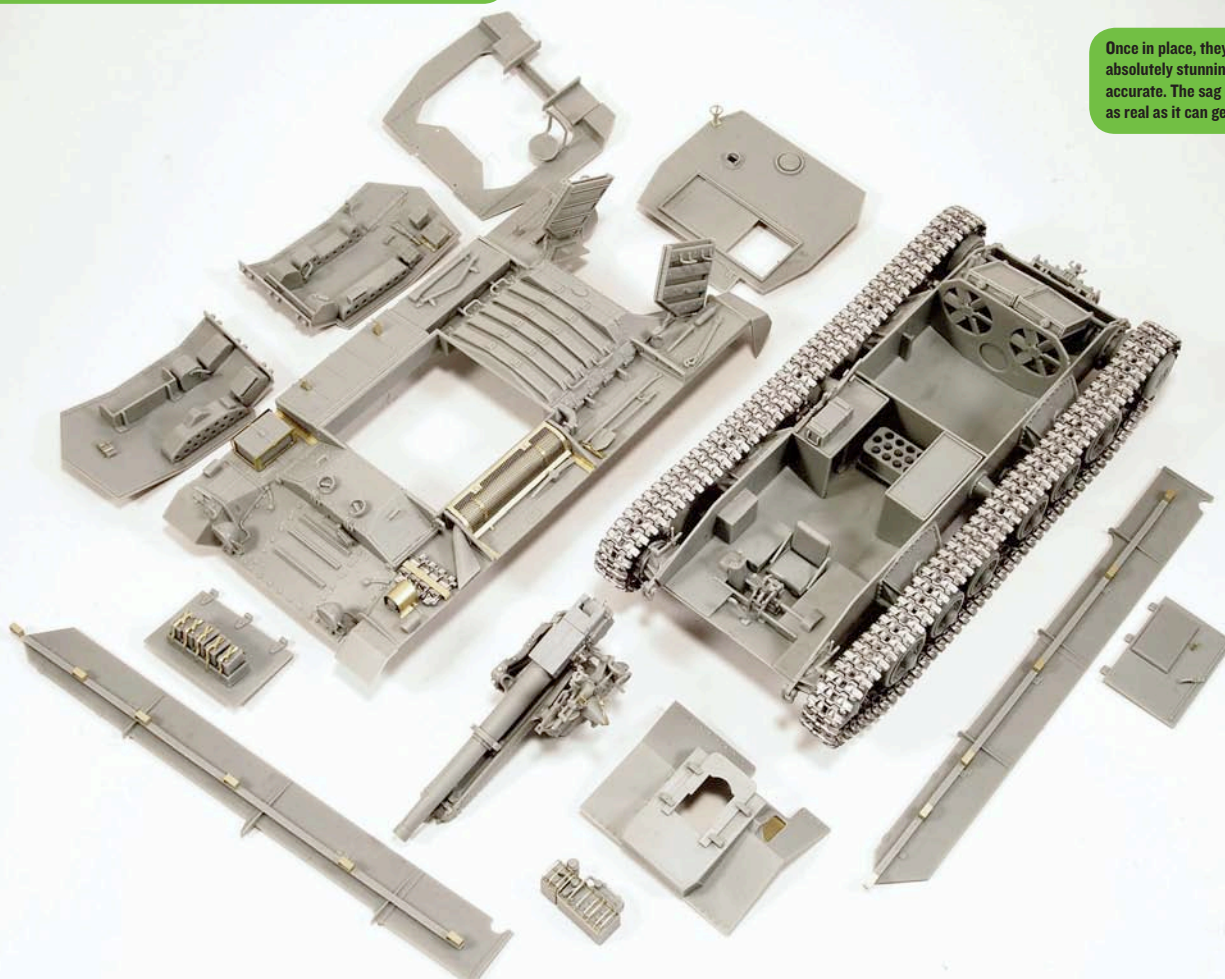
The several links are assembled in small segments and the metal pins are introduced in the right spots (like real 1:1 tracks).

The individual track links provided by Bronco are accurate and well detailed but they are no match for Friulmodel's cast metal tracks. With Friulmodel tracks we achieve natural and realistic sag. Why? Because we have something called gravity. All we have to do is place the assembled metal tracks in the model and let the gravity do all the rest. The final result is lovely and ultra-realistic.

Assembling the Friulmodel tracks is a time consuming process. All the links must be individually prepared for the assembling. Personally I like to drill all the holes where the metal pin will be introduced.



Once all the segments connected, all we have to do is apply small drops of glue to keep everything in place. In this case I used the Deluxe Materials Rocket Rapid Glue. With the help of a plier, all we have to do is cut the excess of the metal pin. The tracks are fully workable and can be placed in every position.



Once in place, they look absolutely stunning and accurate. The sag is just as real as it can get.

Painting and Weathering

Soon the model is ready for painting. All the extra work and detail really improves the final look. The combination of plastic, photo-etch and scratch work really worth all the effort.

Being a model with lots of visible interior parts, the best approach is to build the model in several subassemblies. Like that we will be able to reach all spots during the painting process.



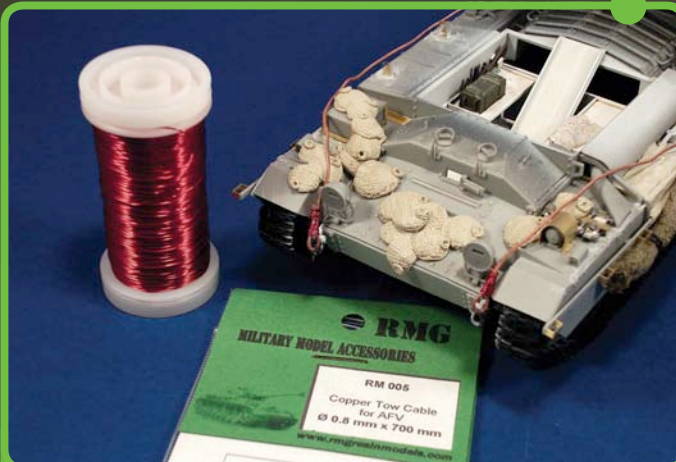
The interior parts were primed in Vallejo 73602 Black Primer. The primer must be applied in several layers in order to keep the fine surface detail.



All the interior details were painted in Vallejo acrylics and then weathered with MIG Productions washes and oils. For the best results and better control, the washes may be thinned in MIG Productions Thinner for Washes and the oils can be thinned in MIG Productions Odourless turpentine.



A roll of Joefix Studios camouflage net was glued to the sides of the tank. These fabric nets look really authentic and will add a touch of interest to our model. It was glued in place with the help of Deluxe Materials Rocket Hot, applied in the capillary way.



Metallic tow cables from Portuguese brand RMG - Military Models Accessories were added to the model and small details were made from fine wire. At this stage, sand bags made in Andrea Sculpt Putty were also added.



Joefix Studios and Royal Model metallic chains look really nice and were also added to the model. All these extra elements will add much more visual interest to our model.



The interior was protected with the help of MIG Productions Liquid Mask. The best approach is filling the interior with soft sponge and tissue paper. Once the interior well filled, we can close the small gaps with MIG Productions Liquid Mask. This is a simple process with great results. The interior is now fully sealed and the exterior painting process can begin.



The entire model was airbrushed in Vallejo 73613 Desert Tan Base Primer. As usual, applied in several layers, in order to keep the fine surface detail. The surface detail is just amazing and Vallejo primers are a great solution to keep all that detail. Also, once dry, it's rock hard and is a very nice base for the painting.



As usual, I like to paint my models in the Zenith Painting Technique. With this technique the model is exposed to the light and the paint is applied in the same fashion as if the model was exposed under a spot light. For this task I used the Vallejo Model Air acrylics 71075 Sand and 71143 UK Light Stone N.º 6I. For the darker and lighter parts, respectively.



With the help of a soft pencil, I draw the camouflage over the model. This is a simple and effective process to start applying a camouflage and will avoid any mistakes.



The camouflage was brush painted in Vallejo Model Colour acrylics and in consecutive and well thinned layers, in order to keep the surface detail. Before start the final weathering and finishing, we must apply the decals.



With all the decals in place, the model is ready for the weathering and finishing. Before the weathering and finishing, the models only look as super toys, but very soon this is about to change.



The colour variation was achieved by applying several others oil colours from MIG Productions. In this case the colours applied were MIG Productions Shadow Brown oil and MIG Productions Dark Mud oil. Those colours must be applied very well thinned in MIG Productions Odourless Turpentine and with the help of a round medium size brush.



The more exposed parts also received several coats of MIG Productions Buff oil and MIG Productions Dark Mud oil. Those colours must be applied very well thinned in MIG Productions Odourless Turpentine and with the help of a flat medium size brush.



MIG Productions Light Sand Wash was applied over several details and in order to blend them to the surrounding areas. For the best results and a better control, the wash can be thinned in MIG Productions Thinner for Washes.



The red primer parts also received a well-thinned layer of MIG Productions Extreme Rust Wash and MIG Productions Orange for Extreme Decay Filter. The combination of all these colours and products will enhance the colour variation and turn our model more accurate.



Several layers of MIG Productions Wood Ageing Solution Wash, Brown Wash and Earth Wash were also applied well thinned in MIG Productions Thinner for Washes. Those colours will act as "neutral" filters and will be very important for the final colour composition achievement.



MIG Productions' Engine Grease oil was applied around several spots and looks extremely convincing, but it must be applied very well thinned in MIG Productions Odourless Turpentine and in consecutive layers.



The dusty look was achieved in MIG Productions Pigments. Several colours must be used in order to get a more realistic look. The pigments were fixed in place with the help of MIG Productions Pigment Fixer and MIG Productions Thinner for Washes.

Base and Diorama

I'm a diorama builder and the first step is to make some simple composition. The main element for the groundwork is a lovely piece from MIG Productions range. The Arab Gate is a stunning 1:35 piece of Arabic architecture in resin format.



Construction of MIG Productions' Arab Gate is very straightforward.



Once everything is in place, several layers of well thinned Deluxe Materials Perfect Plastic Putty was applied. This is water-based putty, so we can thin it in... water! Very easy to apply and control. Also, it dries very fast and once dry it is rock hard.



Dioramas are all about composition and for a better dynamic setting, the elements must be placed in a dynamic way and according invisible diagonal lines. We must avoid at all cost placing elements parallel to the sides of the base.



The ground was shaped in heat isolation foam. This foam is cheap, easy to find and easy to work with. Also, it is lightweight and ideal to fill large volumes.



The foam was glued to the wood base with the help of Deluxe Materials Tacky Glue. Several layers of Deluxe Materials Foam Armour were applied in order to give an extra strength to the foam. Once dry, it is really hard and will protect the underlying foam.



To achieve the fine desert sand, several layers of MIG Productions Antiskid paste were applied. Being a water based product, it can be thinned in water to achieve a wide variety of effects. It dries very fast into a robust finish.



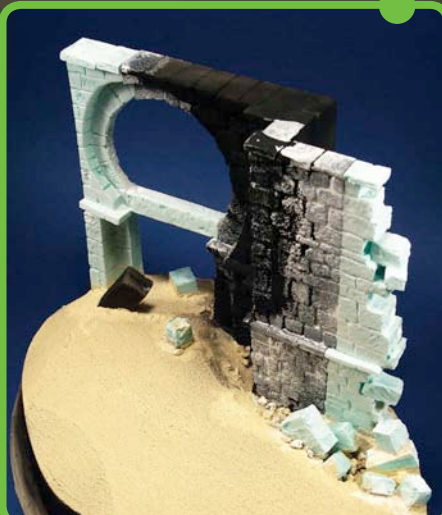
I decided to complete the ruins so I made the missing walls from scratch. They were made using heat isolation foam and the rocks were sculpted with a fine brush slightly moistened in Deluxe Materials Plastic Magic.



Deluxe Materials Plastic Magic reacts to the heat isolation foam, but also evaporates very fast, so it allows great control when it comes to sculpting the heat isolation foam.



Some loose stones were added to the ruins' surroundings. The large stones are heavy and therefore must be slightly buried in the ground. Also, the desert is affected by strong winds and sand storms, so some of those stones should look buried or hidden by the sand. These small details can make all the difference.



Soon, the base is finished and ready for painting. The scratchbuilt parts added to the MIG Productions Arab Gate look really nice and will add a better background control to our model.



The ruins were airbrushed in Vallejo 73602 Black Primer. The primer must be applied in several layers in order to keep the fine surface detail.



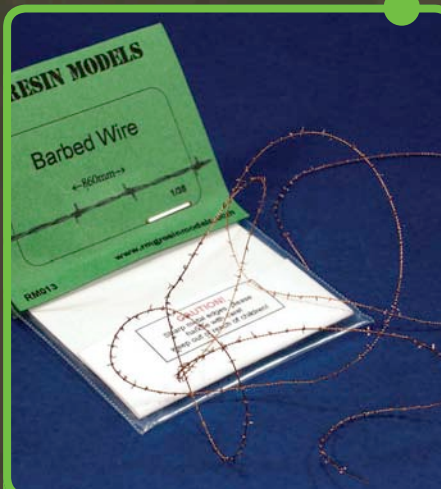
Once the Black Primer was dry, the ruins were primed again, this time in Vallejo 73615 USN Light Ghost Grey Primer. This will be the basic stone colour.



The ground was airbrushed in Vallejo 73613 Desert Tan Base Primer and the top of the ruins in Vallejo Model Air 71119 White Grey.



Metallic spikes from RMG – Military Model Accessories, were glued in place with the help of Deluxe Materials Rocket Rapid Glue.



Barbed wire, also from RMG, was then cut into the desired length, painted and placed in the metallic spikes. Watch your fingers, because RMG barbed wire is just as sharp as the real barbed wire!



Joefix Studios have a huge catalogue of synthetic vegetation and they all look really nice and accurate. They are a constant presence in my projects and this one was no exception. Small pieces were glued at time with the help of Deluxe Materials glue solutions.



The ground was covered in several MIG Productions pigments and fixed in place with MIG Productions Pigment Fixer.

Figures

I always add figures to my dioramas. Besides the "human factor" and scale, they can also tell a story.

All the figures for the project came from MiniArt range. They are made in plastic and the moulding is really nice.

Only minor clean-up is necessary and soon we can start painting them.

At this point I also decide to replace the heads with better ones in resin. The ones with the goggles are from Resicast and the other one is from the Tank catalogue.



At first I assembled three figures, but in the end I decided to use only two of them.



Once assembled, the figures were airbrushed in Vallejo 73613 Desert Tan Base Primer. This is a great base colour for the skin tone.



Once the primers had dried, the figures were painted in Vallejo Model Colour, except the flesh tones that were painted in oils from the MIG Productions range.



Small details were picked out using MIG Productions Dark Wash very well thinned in MIG Productions Thinner for Washes. This must be applied only in the most recessed parts.



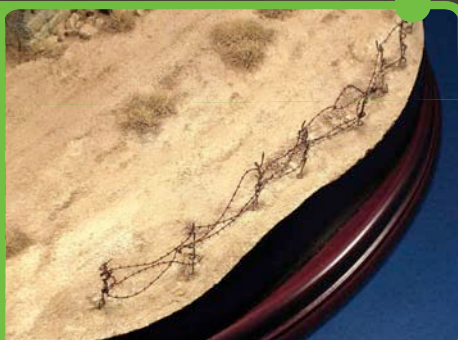
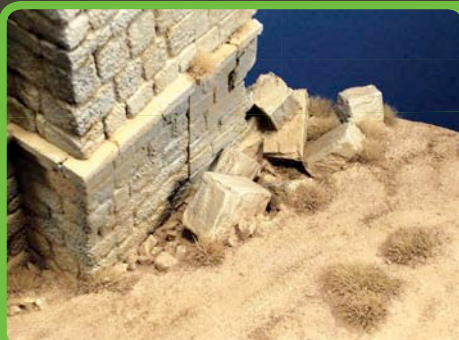
In order to add interest to the scene, I decided to place one of the figures seated over two wooden boxes. In this case, they are in resin, from the Value Gear range.



The figure is seated over a piece of fabric, made from Andrea Sculpt Putty. While the putty is wet, the figure is pressed onto it and once the putty well dry, the figure will be stuck into it. No need for glue and will look very natural. Once completely dry, it's painted in the usual fashion.



The Bishop, painted, weathered and ready to take the pulpit!



Rocks, shrubs and the barbed wire are small details that make a big impact on the completed base.

The figures and vehicle in place on the base.

The MIG Productions Arab Gate is a great model in its own right.

Conclusion

This was a fun project but was also very time consuming.

Bronco's Bishop is a lovely kit but with a huge amount of tiny pieces. Most of them could have been moulded together to save much time to the modeller. The kit must be tackled in several sub-assemblies and with all those visible interior parts, it's not a kit for the beginner.

The MiniArt figures are really nice and with a great relation price/ offer/ quality. Once combined with the Bronco kit and the lovely MIG Productions Arab Gate item, we end up with a lovely scene from the North Africa Campaign.

In the end I'm very happy with the final result.

I hope you like it! ■

Modelspec

Bronco Models 1:35 British 25pdr SP "Bishop"
Kit No. CB35077

Accessories Used:

1:35 MiniArt, British Armoured Car Crew- Item 35069
1:35 MIG Productions, Arab Gate- Item MP 35-107

Materials and Paints Used:

Hood glue
Deluxe Materials glue and special effects solutions
Heat isolation foam
Wood base
Injected plastic
Resin parts
Plastic card
Metal parts
Vallejo primers, acrylics and thinners
MIG Productions oils, washes, pigments, filters and thinners
Graphite soft pencil

References Used:

Several internet sites and forums

✓ Unusual subject; good opportunity to build a different Allied vehicle.

✗ Maybe too many tiny parts.

Available from

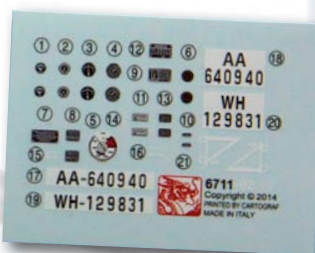
Bronco Models are available from model retailers online and worldwide
www.cn-bronco.com/en/index.php

Rating ●●●●●●○○



View from the rear.





Kit decals offer two marking options plus nice instrument dials.

EARLY FLAK ON TRACKS

Dragon has combined their Sd.Kfz. 10 half track with the 2cm Flak 30 and some new parts to create an interesting early-war anti-aircraft combination.

Andy King takes a closer look.

The Sd.Kfz. 10 halftrack was designed as a light prime mover with an exceptional cross-country capability and a high road speed for towing small artillery pieces. Between 1934 and 1936 Demag designed and assembled several trial vehicles on the D6 chassis after which production began in 1937 until 1938 when the final D7 version went into production until 1944.

The halftrack weighed in at just 1-Ton and was originally powered by the 'NL 38' engine (later replaced with the 100hp 'HL 42') and could reach a speed on roads up to 75kph (47mph).

Like other German WWII vehicles, there were many variants based on this chassis. This is the early version of the 10/4 with a 2cm flak 30 mounted on the rear. A platform with drop-down mesh sides was fitted to the rear chassis behind the cab, upon which the 2cm flak carriage was secured at three points.

The box contains eleven sprues in grey styrene, a single clear sprue, a fret of photo-etched metal, a small decal sheet, masks for the windscreen (although these are not mentioned in the instructions) and individual 'Magic' track links (YAY). The lower hull is in a separate bag.

Included in the kit is a well-detailed engine with transmission, the early 2cm Flak 30, ammunition trailer and ramps for loading the gun onto the platform. All parts are well moulded with little flash present and the detail

is really good.

Starting with the running gear the correct early pattern outer road wheels without the reinforcing ribs are present and the drive sprockets have the small rollers off-set to one side slightly which is something that kit manufacturers have missed in the past. By the way as they are offset be careful which side you stick them on.

The tracks as stated above are made up of individual links moulded in styrene rather than the one piece DS vinyl things, which makes this reviewer very happy but may not be welcomed by other modellers. The good news is that the links are separate so you don't have to cut them off the sprue however the bad news is there are mould-pin marks on the inside face of each link but a quick scrape with a knife should easily eradicate them as they are raised rather than recessed.

The Flak 30 is one that Dragon did a couple of years ago but it's still a good kit and very nicely detailed plus it's the only one available in 1:35. The only nit-pick would be the gun sight as the one in the kit is just a solid disc of styrene with cross hairs moulded on, a photo-etched item would have been nice and look far superior. The barrel is a one-piece moulding and looks okay, however the flash suppressor would benefit from the small holes drilling and the end thinning out for a more scale appearance.

A really nice detail on this kit are the louvers on the

engine bonnet (or hood to American readers) and side panels as they are actually see through, something that most manufacturers have moulded solid due to the constraints of the moulding process. Very commendable!

As this is an early vehicle the colour scheme is limited to overall Panzer Grey with just two examples from unidentified units in 1939 and 1940. Colour call outs are from the Mr Hobby and Model Master paint ranges only. The decal sheet is tiny but well printed by Cartograf and it's nice to see some decent instrument dials in a kit (ICM take note).

The only negative for this kit is that Dragon has not included any rifles for the racks on the front fenders so you will have to source these from elsewhere. Ideally, I would have liked to have seen the crew figures illustrated on the box art included as the poses are great and lots more ammunition magazines as there would have been many.

Other than that it looks to be a lovely little model!

Seven hundred parts may put a few people off but you have to realise that the tracks are made up of approximately eighty pieces each side plus some fifty odd parts go in the spares box so it's not that bad really and the level of detail is well worth the time to nail the kit together. ■

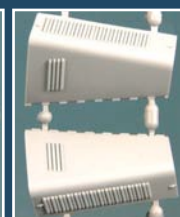
Many thanks to The Hobby Company for the review sample www.hobbyco.net



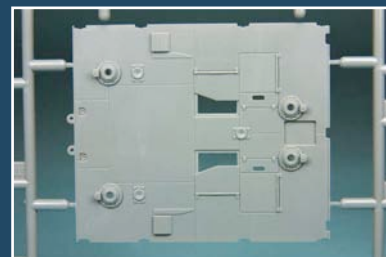
The one-piece lower hull.



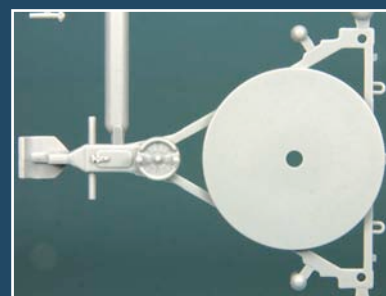
The see-through grille is very nice.



The separate bonnet halves are equally impressive.



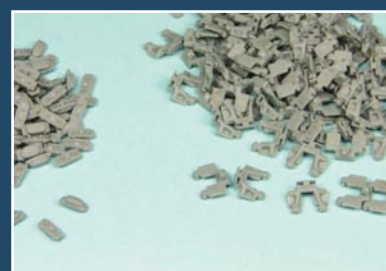
The nice new floor for the tray.



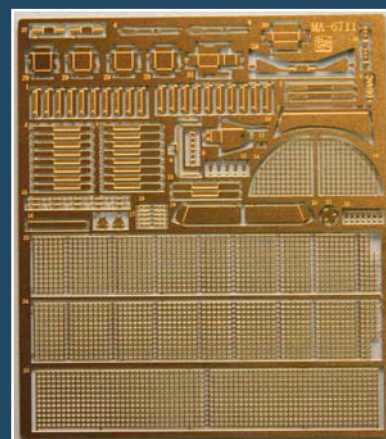
The 2cm gun mount.



The gun barrel is slide-moulded plastic.



Individual "Magic Tracks" - hooray!



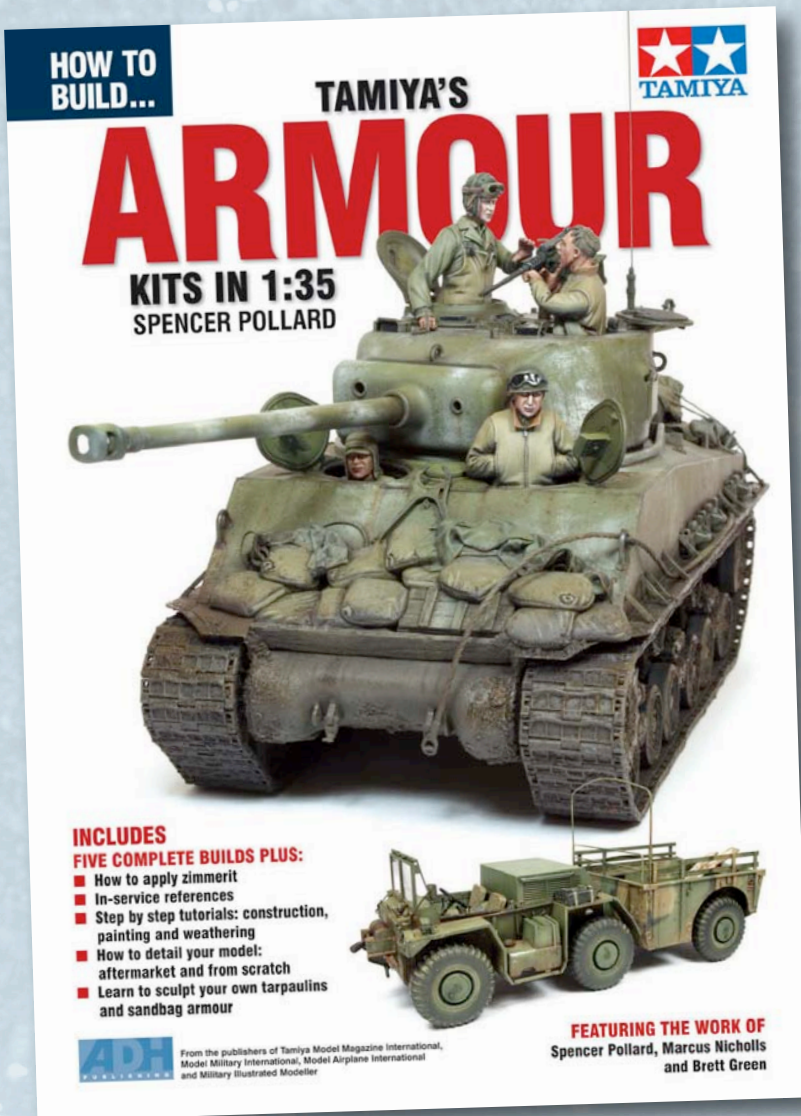
The comprehensive photo-etched fret.

History from:

• Panzertrucks 22-1 by Thomas L. Jentz and Hilary Doyle. ISBN 0-9815382-5-8

• Halftracked Vehicles of the German Army 1909-1945 by Walter J. Spielberger. Schiffer Military History. ISBN 978-0-7643-2942-5

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SNOWBLIND!

The Editor finishes Tasca's M4A3E2 Sherman Jumbo as the famous "Cobra King", the US 4th Armored Division tank that spearheaded the relief of Bastogne in December 1944.



The M4A3E2 was a heavily protected Sherman with an extra 4" of armour welded to the front glacis and appliqué armour on the hull sides. The turret was similar in shape to the 76mm T23 turret, but featured thicker armour and vertical sides. The 75mm was fitted as standard, but this was often replaced with the more effective 76mm gun. The result was a Sherman that could stand toe-to-toe with Panther and Tiger tanks, absorbing punishment from the superior German guns. It was

therefore used as a breakthrough vehicle, heading the charge in front of more vulnerable standard Shermans.

The M4A3E2 Jumbo was heavier than the standard Sherman, so the tracks were usually fitted with "duckbill" extensions to more evenly distribute the weight. Not surprisingly, the top speed of these heavier vehicles was 4 mph less than a standard Sherman.

The Jumbo entered service in North Western Europe in late 1944. 254 of these hefty stopgap tanks lumbered off the production lines.

JUMBO IN 1:35 SCALE

Until now, the only 1:35 scale M4A3E2 was the 1980s kit from Tamiya. This model suffered from a number of critical errors and is best ignored.

Tasca is the first on the scene with an accurate, state-of-the-art Sherman Jumbo.

Tasca's 1:35 scale M4A3E2 comprises 471 parts in dark green plastic, 15 parts in clear plastic, one fret of photo-etched parts, 24 clear polythene caps, 4 lengths of flexible tracks and one sheet of black material to pack into the

workable VVSS suspension units.

This Sherman kit provides a number of important new parts. These include an all-new turret, side and front appliqué armour, revised hatches, "big hub" road wheels and T48 tracks with duckbill extensions.

The new turret includes the angular mantlet and 75mm gun. The surfaces are moulded with a restrained cast texture but no casting numbers. Tasca has also supplied the 76mm mantlet and two gun barrels from their M4A3 kits, so the modeller has the option of



upgunning their Jumbo if desired.

The appliqué armour is bevelled and features weld beads where appropriate. Revised sand shield mounts for the hull are also included.

In addition to the brand-new "big hub" road wheels, the kit also includes full sets of two-piece solid spoke and the early open spoke road wheels as options. All types were seen on various Jumbos, so check your references carefully.

The T48 rubber chevron tracks with duckbill extensions are very well done. As usual, each side

is supplied in two brown vinyl lengths that can be joined with regular polystyrene cement. Most photos of Jumbo Shermans show a number of the duckbills missing from the track runs, so it might be worth spending a bit of time cutting some of these extensions off and adding bolts to the exposed connectors.

The balance of the sprues have been seen in some of Tasca's earlier releases. The one-piece upper hull and hull fittings are mostly from the M4A3 kits. The familiar "flat pack" lower hull is

made up from five pieces, but assembly is certainly not a chore and the fit is perfect.

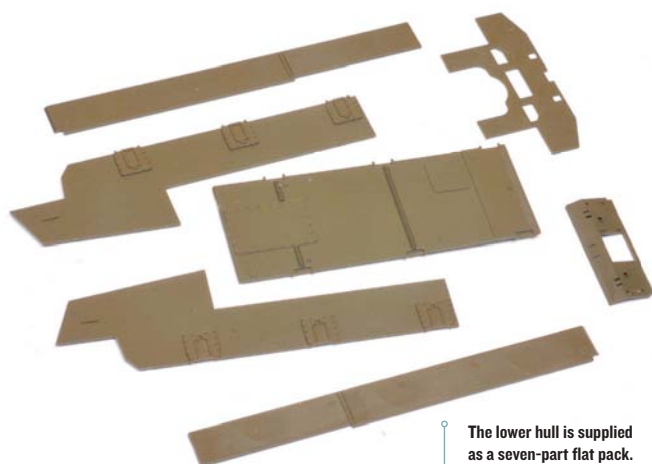
Two full sets of VVSS suspension units are provided. One features the straight mounting arms for the return rollers, with the other set is moulded with the later upswept arms. Built according to the instructions with the foam rubber sheets, the suspension units are fully articulating but I generally prefer to fix them in place using solid plastic packing.

The clear Commander's cupola has had become standard on all of

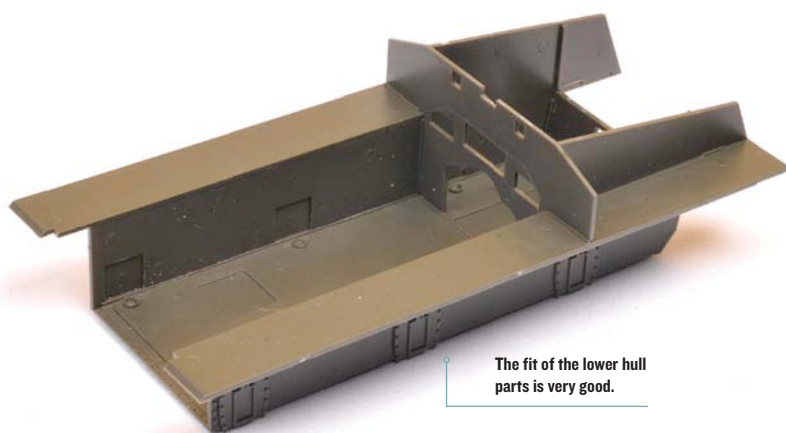
Tasca's late Shermans, and this kit is no exception. This will be ideal for modellers who want to mask off the vision blocks for a very realistic result. Periscopes and light lenses are offered as clear parts too. For those who prefer to paint their vision blocks, a solid green plastic cupola is also supplied.

The M2 .50 cal machine gun has been seen in earlier releases. This is a little gem. Jerry cans are supplied too.

The modest photo-etched fret includes brush guards for the lights and periscopes. ►



The lower hull is supplied as a seven-part flat pack.



The fit of the lower hull parts is very good.

◀ BUILDING TASCA'S SHERMAN SUSPENSION

Assembling the running gear and lower hull is covered in Steps 1 through 6 of the instructions.

Although the instructions are provided in 19 steps, once you have the suspension and lower hull assembled, you will have all of the hard work done.

By far the most fiddly aspect of Tasca's Shermans is the suspension. On the upside though, the suspension units are superbly detailed and they fit perfectly. You just need to stay organised and take your time.

Tasca supplies both the straight and upward-swept arm later VVSS suspension units in this kit and three styles of road wheels - lace, solid and big hub - so you'll have some spare parts once you're done. Tasca has cleverly designed these bogies to be fully workable. The four main suspension arms and the rockers on each unit are separate parts that may be left free to

move. The really clever part is the inclusion of a spongy rubber mat, which is designed to be cut up and inserted in the top of the bogie. This will offer some resistance but still allows the suspension arms to compress (or to drop when unsprung), just like the real thing.

The only tiny problem is that Tasca provides flexible vinyl tracks. The tension of these might not permit much movement of the bogies. Individual track links will be a better option if you wish to depict your Sherman in action over rough terrain, but do keep in mind that the "live" T51 track will not sag on the top run.

In my case, I was planning to sit the finished Sherman on a flat surface so I did not need - nor indeed want - the suspension to be workable.

Before assembling the suspension units, I roughed up the tyres on the road wheels with a quick once-over using a coarse

sanding stick.

All the suspension parts were cut off their sprues and cleaned up with a knife and sanding stick. Take care that the grease nipples face outward when assembling the suspension arms and the road wheels. With Step 4 complete, these sub-assemblies were set aside to dry thoroughly overnight before returning to complete the bogies.

I deviated from the instructions in Step 5 after gleaning a tip from Jim Wechsler in a Blog on the venerable armour modelling site, Track-Link www.track-link.net. Jim suggests that a piece of .040" styrene can be packed inside the bogie to replace the rubber sheet. The solid plastic will effectively immobilise the bogie, maintaining it in a flat stance. I did not have .040" thickness plastic strip in my workshop, so I resorted to a sandwich of two 0.5 mm thick strips instead. Twelve pieces of

plastic strip were cut to size using my "Chopper" tool. These were carefully glued and placed inside the top of the bogie assembly, instead of the rubber sheet.

I spent a few puzzled minutes trying to figure out why the two suspension arms would not both fit onto their locating pins inside the bogies. I finally figured out that the arms interlock in the middle, and that the right arm must be positioned first.

Just to be safe, I also glued the rockers to the main suspension arms. This locked everything into place. The first time I fitted the front cover (Parts B28 / 29) to a bogie it took a few moments of fiddling, but it eventually snapped into position. A little Tamiya Extra Thin Liquid Cement along the join lines and the job was finished.

I clamped the units together until the cement set.



Mr Dissolved Putty is a product of Gunze/Mr Hobby. This was used to stipple on heavier cast texture to the one-piece transmission cover.



Cast texture on the turret was also enhanced with Mr Dissolved Putty.

LOWER HULL

Tasca has moulded their lower hull in a multi-part flat pack. Presumably, this allows for the maximum detail to be moulded to the outside surfaces of the parts, resulting in less moulding marks and permits more options for different hulls. However, it does demand a bit more work from the modeller. Fortunately, it is not much more work.

The instructions suggest the sequence of assembly, and it worked a treat for me.

First, the nose joining strip (Part J13) was glued to the bottom of the hull, followed by the firewall (Part E7). Each of the two sidewalls was now attached to the edges of the lower hull and the firewall. The rear hull almost clips into place with impressive precision. Finally, the sponson covers (Parts H1 and H3) were glued to the top of the hull sides and to the overhang of the firewall and the rear hull. This entire step took around a half an hour, and the fit was perfect.

EXTRA TEXTURE, READ ALL ABOUT IT

Tasca has moulded subtle cast texture to the turret and the one-piece transmission cover, but I wanted to accentuate the effect. One of the reasons was that I thought a heavier cast texture would show off my planned ice and snow finish to better effect.

Mr Dissolved Putty was stippled on to the one-piece transmission cover and the turret sides. I stippled the putty more as it was drying, then flattened it slightly with a fingertip.

Wartime photos show prominent casting marks on the turrets of Jumbo Shermans. I used some of my dwindling plastic Slaters Alphabets to add numbers to the sides and the top front of the turret. These were held in place with Tamiya Extra Thin Liquid Cement.

One photograph very clearly shows extremely heavy and distinctive welding on the front of the turret immediately behind the mantlet. I thought this would be interesting to reproduce.

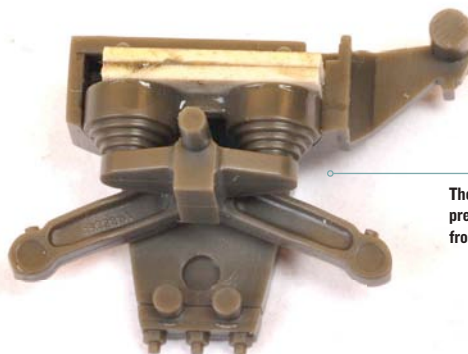
The area surrounding the heavy welding was masked off with Tamiya tape. This defined the outline, then two-part Milliput White epoxy putty was applied and shaped with a wooden tool. The distinctive weld marks on the sides were added using the tip of a hobby knife.

The balance of construction was fast and smooth. My only deviation from the instructions was ►



The kit supplies three full sets of different styles of main wheels – big hub, pressed and lace.

The packing for the suspension units was cut from plastic strip to replace the spongy material supplied with the kit.



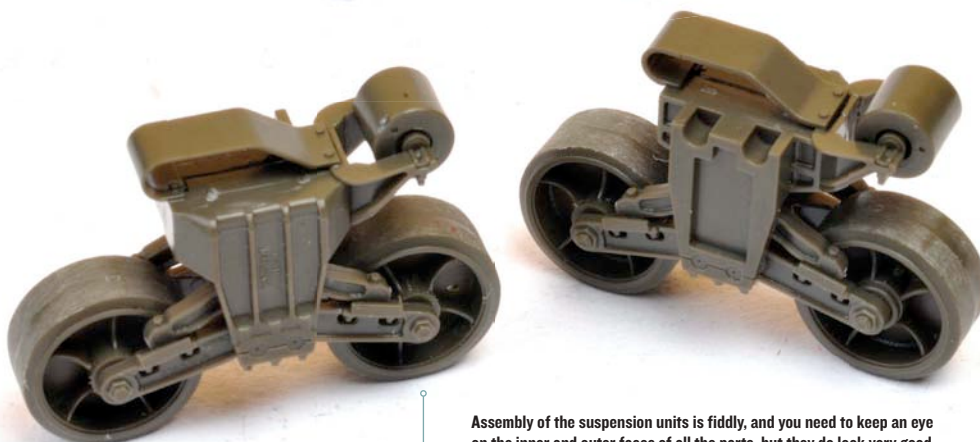
The solid plastic packing prevents the suspension from compressing.



One of the big hub road wheels about to be mounted onto a suspension arm.



The suspension units are clamped as the glue sets.



Assembly of the suspension units is fiddly, and you need to keep an eye on the inner and outer faces of all the parts, but they do look very good when finished and can be made fully workable if desired too.

The rear engine vent is made up from six pieces.

This is what it should look like when it is assembled.

The vent simply clicks into place without glue, and can swing into the downward position if you are careful.

The armour plates for the glacis and hull sides are separate pieces, just like the real thing.

The main hull assemblies have been brought together here. The transmission cover and the turret have been treated to a coat of Tamiya Grey Primer to check for imperfections.

A swipe of Tamiya Surfacer was applied to the armour plate upper joins. The excess was wiped off with a fingertip.

The suspension units ready to be added to the hull. I lost one of the return rollers to the dreaded carpet monster, so I replaced it with a spare from a Dragon Sherman.

The kit tools were replaced with resin parts from Formations. The detail is fantastic, but the resin is brittle so extreme care is required when removing the parts from their casting blocks.

to replace the kit on-vehicle tools with resin items from Formations. These are clearly superior in terms of detail, and they also have mounts and straps cast onto the tools. The only problem is that the resin is quite brittle and the parts are cast onto a flat base, making it challenging to remove the tools without breaking them.

DRAB ON DRAB

With construction complete, I sprayed a base coat of Tamiya AS-6 Olive Drab (USAAF). This colour is a very close match to Tasca's plastic. Being a tough lacquer paint, it did not need a preliminary primer coat.

The model was then airbrushed with a few different colours from AK Interactive Item No. AK 131 - US Olive Drab Special Modulation Set. The paler shades were used on the horizontal surfaces and in streaks and mottles.

Regrettably, this careful modulation was totally wasted under the later snow and ice finish, but I will use these airbrush-ready paints again when I have a US Army Olive Drab subject.

SNOWBLIND!

A well-known reference photo shows Cobra King to be wearing not winter camouflage but snow and ice.



Note the very heavy welding behind the gun mantlet. This does not seem to be present on all Jumbos but I thought it would be interesting to reproduce on mine.



The area surrounding the heavy welding was masked off with Tamiya tape. This defined the outline.



Two-part Milliput White epoxy putty was applied and shaped with a wooden tool. The distinctive weld marks on the sides were added using the tip of a hobby knife.



Casting marks were added using Slaters Alphabets. These were held in place with Tamiya Extra Thin Liquid Cement.



The main components of the gun and mantlet. The main gun can elevate and depress thanks to polythene caps.

I used this photo as my guide to the finish. I particularly wanted to replicate its washed out, monochrome appearance.

I have dabbled with the hairspray technique on small areas of models, but never on such a large subject.

I would have to confess that I have had variable results in the past, most likely due to the chipping media / hairspray used.

I recently read that the best results would be achieved with a non-lacquer hairspray with a fairly weak hold, so I trotted off to the hair care aisle of the supermarket to browse the many products. Considering my polished pate, I'm sure that other customers wondered what I was doing there! In the end, I found a likely candidate.

To test out the technique, the

hairspray was sprayed onto the bottom hull, followed by a few varied airbrush applications of Tamiya XF-2 Flat White. The paint was left to dry for a few minutes, then the bottom of the hull was scrubbed with a damp, medium-sized flat brush. I was surprised how quickly the paint disappeared.

The process was repeated on the running gear. The upper hull was masked off and the suspension

units sprayed with hairspray followed by Tamiya XF-2 Flat White. I was happy with the results so I moved onto the next stage - structural snow.

I bought a tub of Micro Balloons from Chris Wauchop's Sydney hobby shop, "Absolute Hobbies", about 20 years ago to try out a snow finish, but never wound up using them.

Micro Balloons are microscopic ▶



The Jumbo takes shape. Formations' resin tools have been super glued to the hull.



The entire model was given a base coat of Tamiya AS-6 Olive Drab (USAAF) straight from the spray can. This colour is a very close match to the kit plastic.



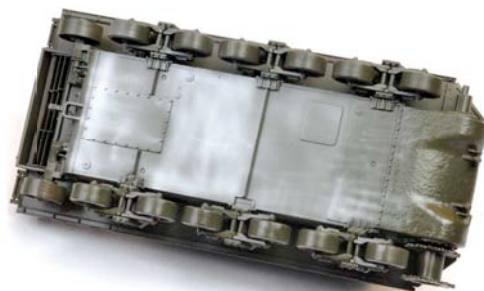
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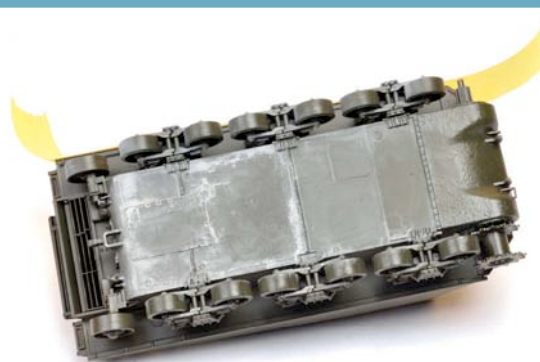
Cobra King is photographed covered in snow and ice. I wanted to replicate this monochrome finish on my model.



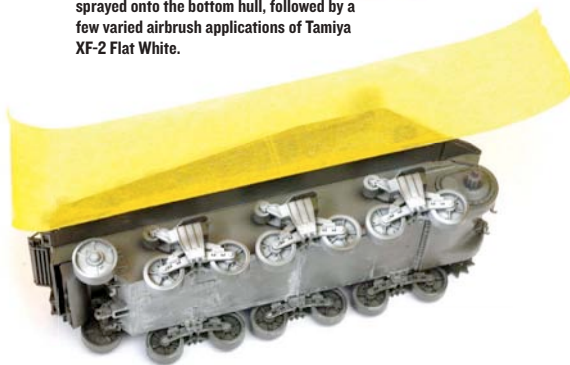
I bought a non-lacquer hairspray with a fairly low hold rating at a local supermarket.



To test out the technique, the hairspray was sprayed onto the bottom hull, followed by a few varied airbrush applications of Tamiya XF-2 Flat White.



The paint was left to dry for a few minutes, then the bottom of the hull was scrubbed with a damp, medium-sized flat brush. I was surprised how quickly the paint disappeared.



The process was repeated on the running gear. The upper hull was masked off and the suspension units sprayed with hairspray followed by Tamiya XF-2 Flat White.



The running gear after selective scrubbing, using the wartime photo as reference.

hollow glass spheres, very lightweight and able to be mixed with various media to make filler. In this case, I mixed the Micro Balloons with white glue and a small amount of water to form a snowy compound.

The snow was added selectively over the hairspray and white paint ice effect with a toothpick and a small wooden spatula. At this stage, I only applied the ice and snow to the front glacis and transmission cover.

Archer's dry transfers were used for the markings. The backing sheet was cut out to match each hull side. They were taped in place and the markings rubbed down vigorously with a small wooden spatula. The process was repeated with the star markings on each side of the turret. The result was fast and impressive.

With the Archer Transfers in place, the ice and snow was applied over the top using the previously described methods.

ALLIED TANKS VS. THE AMERICAN LUFTWAFFE

I decided to add a couple of Air Identification panels to lend some bright contrast to the otherwise monochrome finish.

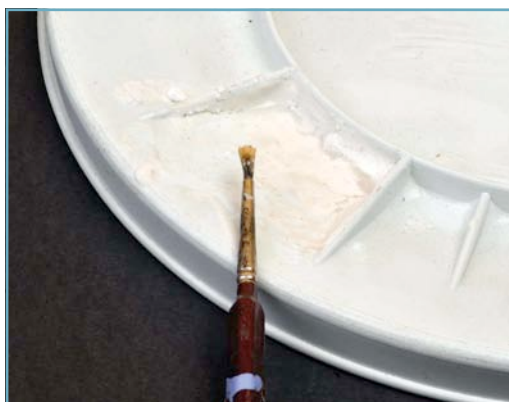
Air Identification Panels were used in the European Theatre from D-Day until the end of the



I bought a tub of Micro Balloons about 20 years ago to try out a snow finish, but never wound up using them.



Micro Balloons are microscopic hollow glass spheres, very lightweight and able to be mixed with various media to make filler.



In this case, the Micro Balloons were mixed with white glue and a small amount of water to form a snowy substance.



Some of the snow has been added to the glacis plate and transmission cover with a toothpick and a small wooden spatula. So far, so good.

Archer's dry transfers were used for the markings.



The backing sheet was cut out to match each hull side. They were taped in place and the markings rubbed down vigorously with a wooden spatula.



The process was repeated with the star markings on each side of the turret.

“By far the most fiddly aspect of Tasca’s Shermans is the suspension. On the upside though, the suspension units are superbly detailed and they fit perfectly...”



The result was fast and impressive.



The rub-down markings on the other side do not include the “First in Bastogne” graffiti.

The entire turret received a very thin coat of Tamiya XF-2 Flat White before the hairspray coat. I hoped that this would deliver a multi-layered ice / frost effect.

The turret after the hairspray, second coat of white and scrubbing. Pretty happy with this.

The same process was applied to the hull sides, one at a time.

The left hull side after hairspray and scrubbing. I was a bit worried that the rub-down transfers might be rubbed right off, but there was no problem whatsoever.

The turret was fitted to the hull to get an impression of the finish so far.

The Mico Ballon and white glue snow mix was selectively added to the hull and the turret.



I wanted to add a splash of colour to emphasise the monochrome finish of the rest of the vehicle. Two Air Identification Panels were made from Kneadatite two-part epoxy putty.



The blue and yellow sections are cut from the ribbon, then rolled and kneaded until they are pliable. The ball of putty may then be rolled flat and cut to shape before the panels are draped over the rear deck.



Once they had set, the panels were removed from the rear deck and sprayed with Tamiya White Primer.



The red and yellow are mixes of Tamiya spray can colours, decanted and applied by airbrush.



The edges were carefully brush painted and snow was added in low-lying areas.

war as a way for Allied aircrews to distinguish German from US and British vehicles on the ground.

The US Army Panel Set comprised a fluorescent pink/red panel and a fluorescent yellow panel. A blue panel was available too, but this was only used by vehicles behind the front lines. Each of the panels was backed with white, and this could be used in combination with the other colours. Two versions were available - either 12 feet long and 28 inches wide; or a shorter 6 foot long pennant.

After the Germans became aware of the use of the panels, they were rotated in combinations of red, yellow and white according to a schedule that changed on a weekly basis.

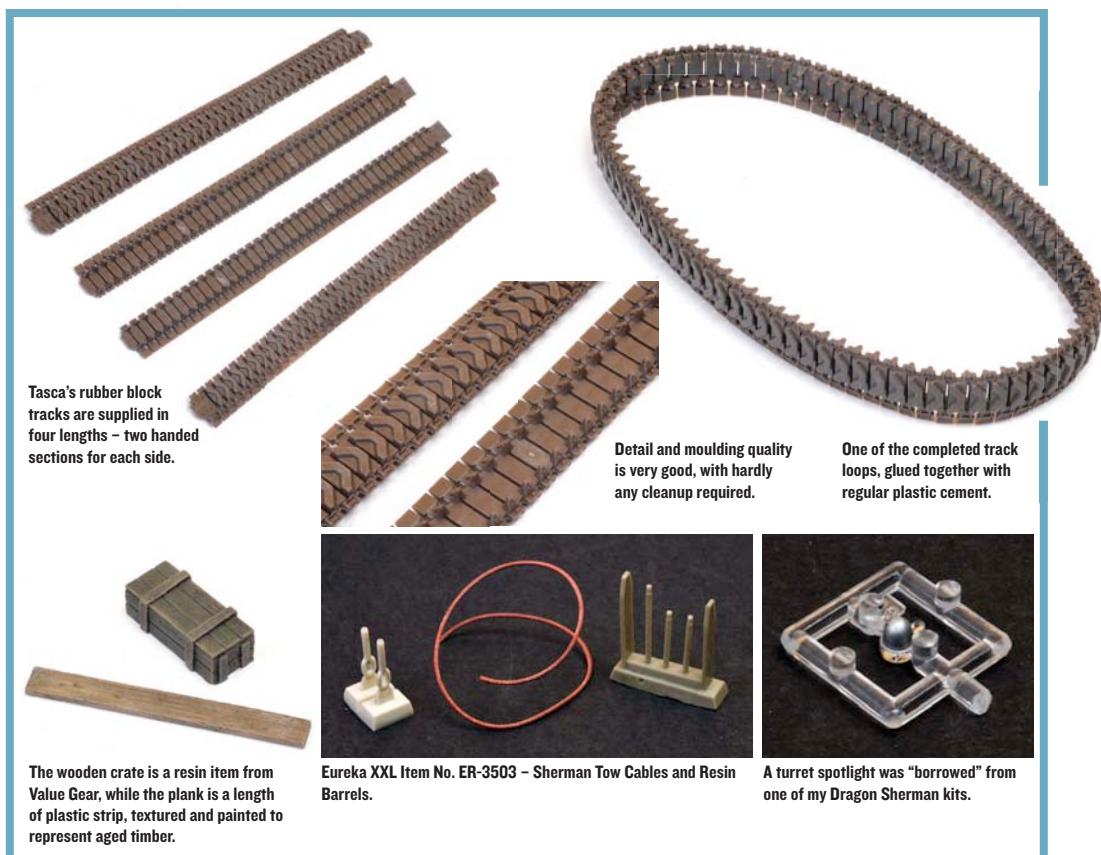
I chose red and yellow as my combination.

As these colours are notoriously tricky to paint, I started with a base coat of Tamiya White Primer from the spray can, followed by mixes of Tamiya spray colours, decanted and applied with my airbrush, for the red and yellow.

The borders of the panels were carefully brush painted brown to complete the paint job.

WALKING THE PLANK (AND THE BOX)

In contrast to many late-war Allied tanks. Cobra King did not carry much external stowage. The only stowage seen on the photo is an ammo box on a plank between the front mudguards. ►



Tasca's rubber block tracks are supplied in four lengths - two handed sections for each side.

Detail and moulding quality is very good, with hardly any cleanup required.

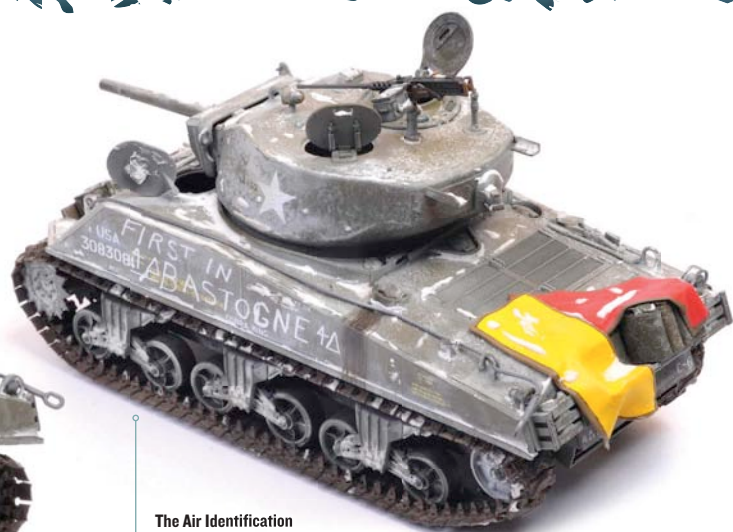
One of the completed track loops, glued together with regular plastic cement.

The wooden crate is a resin item from Value Gear, while the plank is a length of plastic strip, textured and painted to represent aged timber.

Eureka XXL Item No. ER-3503 - Sherman Tow Cables and Barrels.

A turret spotlight was "borrowed" from one of my Dragon Sherman kits.

The model, complete with tow cable, front stowage and turret .50 cal machine gun.



The Air Identification Panels are doing the job!

I could not find a match for the ammunition container so I sourced a wooden box from a Value Gear set.

The plank was cut to size from a length of Evergreen plastic strip. The front and back of the strip was scraped repeatedly with a razor saw to achieve a woodgrain texture, then the plastic was sprayed with Tamiya Grey Primer straight from the can.

Once the primer was dry, I dry-brushed the plank with Vallejo Panzer Aces acrylic 310 Old Wood, followed by a wash with MIG Productions Wood Ageing Solution. I was really happy with the weathered timber effect.

Finishing touches included the kit's .50 cal turret machine gun, a turret spotlight taken from a Dragon kit, and a copper tow cable from Eureka XXL.

CONCLUSION

Tasca's 1:35 scale M4A3E2 Jumbo is a fitting tribute to this muscular assault tank. It is accurate, very well detailed and it is as enjoyable to build as its predecessors.

I am very pleased that I took a stroll out of my comfort zone with the wintry finish. I'm sure that I will be making future use of the hairspray, ice and snow techniques that I have tried out here. ■



A collection of various resin body parts were assembled to create a five-man crew.



The crew was painted in a batch. Here, the basic flesh colour has been sprayed on the faces, followed by a wash of Rowney Georgian Oil Paint 221 Burnt Sienna and fine details picked out with Vallejo Panzer Aces 337 Highlighter. (Black).



Uniforms have just received a dark oil wash.



Detail painting is almost complete.



The finished crew at home in their tank. The rank chevrons and the triangular 4th Armored Division shoulder patches were picked out with Vallejo acrylics and a fine brush.



The tracks have received a coat of Easy Mud, wiped off to reveal the rubber block treads.

The Commander's vision slots were painted with Tamiya Clear Green over a medium grey shade.



“I am very pleased that I took a stroll out of my comfort zone with the wintry finish...”





The combination of snow and ice certainly offers a different look from the usual Olive Drab Sherman!



The tracks also received a selective application of snow.

Modelspec

Tasca 1:35 M4A3E2 Sherman Jumbo Kit No. 35-021

Accessories Used:

Formations Item No. F018 - Archer Fine Transfers Item No. AR35357 - M4A3E2 Jumbo Sherman COBRA KING
Slater's Plastikard Item No. 1101 - 1.5mm Alphabets
Value Gear Universal Set No. C4 (one resin box)
Eureka XXL Item No. ER-3503 - Sherman Tow Cables and Resin Barrels

Tools and Materials:

Tamiya Extra Thin Liquid Cement
Mr Hobby - Mr Dissolved Putty
WFS - Standard Micro Balloons (glass microspheres)
Gator's Acrylic Glue
Milliput White Two-Part Epoxy Putty
Evergreen Plastic Strip
Revell Contacta Cement
Selleys Super Glue
Tamiya Surfacer
Kneadatite Blue/Yellow Epoxy Putty Tape
Iwata HP-CH Airbrush

Paints and Finishing Products:

Vehicle Paints:
Tamiya Spray Cans - AS-6 Olive Drab (USAAF); TS-34 Camel Yellow; TS-49 Bright Red; Grey Primer; Fine White Primer.
AK Interactive Item No. AK 131 - US Olive Drab Special Modulation Set.
Tamiya Acrylic - X-25 Clear Green; XF-1 Flat Black; XF-64 Red Brown.
Vallejo Model Colour - 70862 Black Grey; 70863 Gunmetal Grey; 70865 Oily Steel; 919 Foundation White; 70953 Flat Yellow; 70957 Flat Red; 70988 Khaki; 70996 Gold.
Vallejo Panzer Aces: 310 Old Wood; 337 Highlight Ger. (Black).
Future Floor Polish
Testor Item No. 2015 - Flat Clear Lacquer Finish
Easy Mud Item No. 21105 - European Earth
MIG Productions - P410 Oil and Grease Stain Mixture; P225 Wood Ageing Solution.
2B Pencil

Crew Figures:

Yanks Item No. 9617 - used one figure (Commander)
Alpine Miniatures Item No. 35116 - WW2 US AFV Crew Set (both figures)
Warriors Item No. 35474 - U.S. Late War Pershing Crew (driver and radio operator)
Hornet Item No. HUH 08 - USA Tank Crews Heads WW2 (driver's head)

Figure Paints:

Flesh:
Base Coat: Tamiya acrylic XF-15 Flat Flesh + XF-1 Flat White.
Wash: Rowney Georgian Oil Paint 221 Burnt Sienna.
Variations and Highlights: Vallejo Panzer Aces acrylics 341 Flesh Base; Vallejo Model Colour 919 Foundation White (various mixes)
Uniforms:
Base Coats: Vallejo Panzer Aces acrylic 318 US Army Tankcrew; Vallejo Model Colour 70873 US Field Drab; 70893 US Dark Green; 70922 USA Uniform; USA 70988 Khaki.
Helmets: Vallejo Panzer Model Color 70893 US Dark Green
Straps: Vallejo Panzer Aces acrylic 312 Leather Belt
Wash: Mig Productions 502 Abteilung Abt.090 Industrial Earth oil paint
Variations and Highlights: Base coats mixed together and with Vallejo Panzer Aces 322 Highlight US Tkcr. and Vallejo Model Colour 847 Dark Sand and 919 Foundation White.
Borders and Additional Shading: Vallejo Panzer Aces 337 Highlight Ger. (Black).
Goggle Lenses: Future Floor Polish + Tamiya X-23 Clear Blue

- ☒ High level of detail; superb moulding; excellent fit.
- ☒ Fiddly suspension units.

Available from

Thanks to Tasca for the sample www.tasca-modellismo.com

Rating ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

STING IN



Close-up detail of a Quad Maxim Gun.



A captured Quad Maxim being tested by a Wehrmacht soldier.



A convoy of knocked-out GAZ-AAA trucks, all fitted with the Quad Maxim in the cargo tray.

THE TAIL

Chris Leeman builds MiniArt's 1:35 GAZ-AAA truck and adds Tank Model's Quad Maxim Gun.



I'm not sure why, but I have always liked 6 x 4 wheeled trucks. The one axle at the front and dual axles at the back give a vehicle a look that has always been appealing to me. So the GAZ-AAA truck has been a vehicle I have liked for a while.

There have been a few kits of this vehicle released in plastic over the years and while okay, they tended to be a bit clunky and lacked detail. A few years ago this all changed with the release of the MiniArt kit. 3 version of the kit have so far been released, a 1937, 1940 and a 1943 version with more on the way. I choose the 1937 version as I preferred the cleaner lines of this one which doesn't have the spare tires mounted on the fenders.

With a count of 441 grey plastic parts spread over 16 sprues, 7 clear parts and a small etched fret, this kit has blown the opposition out of the water. Some of the moulding is the finest I have seen in plastic but with that comes problems. Attachment points on some of the delicate parts are very large and no matter how careful I was, part damage was unavoidable (for me anyway). Don't get me wrong, I think this is a cracking model but I think MiniArt should look at how they do their moulding and revise some aspects to make potential breakage trying to remove parts (or their associated sprue attachment points) less likely.

As I wanted to do something a bit different, I decided to mount a Quadruple Maxim Anti-Aircraft system mod. 1931 gun mount on the back. For this I choose the Tank Models kit, which is nicely done in resin and photo-etched but like most things needed a few tweaks here and there. At the time of writing, MiniArt has announced that they will be releasing this combination as a full plastic kit, which is great news.

THE BUILD

Some of the parts are extremely fine and I encountered my first problems in the first couple of stages of building. There are long "U" shaped brackets that hold

wooden beams for the rear cargo body to the metal chassis and no matter how gently I went I couldn't avoid breaking some. To keep uniformity I replaced them all with copper wire bend to shape. While I was at it I replaced the linkages for the rear axles for the same reasons, I broke one. I also replaced the spring for the towing pintle with coiled copper wire.

A word of advice when putting the chassis together - take your time, do a lot of test fitting and use a slow setting glue. A combination of a lot of parts (including sub-assemblies) and some small and vague attachment points mean it takes a while to get everything to line up. The chassis, engine and suspension construction takes up 27 steps of the instructions so it is a big and time-consuming job. Believe me, if you are out in this area it has a knock on effect down the track, so be warned now. That said, once again the detail is superb and rivals anything else on the market for quality.

I did add a little bit of wiring to the engine (which is well done by itself) but unless you are going to have the engine bonnet open or the side grills off you will see nothing so don't spend a lot of time in this area if you are going to close it up. I broke the front main steering arm so I constructed a new one from brass wire and plastic rod. Construction of the wheels is time consuming, with each wheel having 7 thin segments you need to glue together and you then sandwich the wheel rim between them. But this process leaves you with a set of excellent looking wheels & tires, as good with anything I've seen in resin.

Construction of the cab was next. This is a high part count affair as well and care must be taken again to make sure everything is aligned and in place. I deviated a bit and constructed the entire main cabin except the roof, checking as I went to make sure it fitted the chassis and everything was aligned. I did have a few issues trying to get the doors to fit (I needed to do a bit of filing and ►



A rare view into the cargo bay of another destroyed GAZ-AAA truck. Note the cone-shaped mount.



A more intact GAZ-AAA truck with Maxim gun being examined by a passing German soldier. The unusual "8 ball" marking is of note.



Diorama potential?

sanding) but I believe this was my fault, and not the kits.

I used the clear window inserts to cut masks from Tamiya tape for both sides before gently gluing them into place. I then sprayed the interior of the cab a suitable green. I picked out detail like the dash, steering wheel, seats etc. in the appropriate colours. Once dry I weathered the interior. When this was done, the internal window masks were removed and the roof was glued into place.

I then glued the cabin as well as the bonnet and side panels to the chassis. The bracing bar between the two fenders at the front got broken so I replaced this brass wire cut and bent to shape. I also replaced the mounting bracket for the horn with one made from plastic card and lead foil bolts.

Construction of the rear bed was fairly straightforward although once again it pays to test fit parts to make sure everything is straight and lines up. I did not glue this on at this stage.

Next came the gun, its mount and rear ammo box. As mentioned the detail is good on the guns although I did encounter a few areas of flash and some areas where detail hadn't been formed properly and needed a bit of sprucing up or just replacing. The instructions are a little vague in places and I had to do a bit of comparing of pictures and online reference to figure out where everything went. As one of my gun barrels were damaged, I decided to replace all four with stainless steel tubing cut from a hypodermic needle so they were the same in appearance. The guns have quite an intricate cooling system (these guns were water cooled) and some of the main plumbing wasn't quite accurate as per my references and cooling pipes themselves needed to be added. These were replicated with brass wire, plastic rod and lead wire. As the adjusting wheel for the main sight had been damaged I fabricated a new one out of brass wire, plastic rod and some of the kits etched parts. I added the covers for the gun barrels using plastic rod, drilled out at one end, and Aber etched chain.

The mount itself was very good straight from the box. I cut down the central stem to give the guns the height I wanted. I replaced the legs with brass wire cut to size. Pictures I have seen show that the water pump wheel mounted on the cargo deck side was mounted on a plate which is not given in the kit. I made this from plastic card with lead foil bolt head. The ammo box was glued into place, with just some strengthening ribs added

from plastic card, some etched wing nuts and copper wire bent to shape for the handles on the top.

PAINTING AND WEATHERING

I had picked which scheme and markings I wanted for my truck from the pictures I had in my collection. It appeared to be overall Russian green.

For the base coat, I prepared a mix of Tamiya XF-61 Dark Green (1 part), Tamiya X-8 Lemon Yellow (1.5 parts), Tamiya XF-13 JA Green (1 part) and Tamiya X-3 Royal Blue (0.5 part) and sprayed the entire model. I'm not a big fan of colour modulation, simply because I think the false perspective it creates is quite often overdone and gives the model an almost neon glow which I don't like. But I do think used in moderation it can have its benefits and I did do some on this model. I created "highlights" on the roof, bonnet & tops of the fenders, mixing Tamiya Buff (XF-57) into the base colour. I was more simply trying to show areas that would bleach and fade in time from natural elements and use more than trying to create a forced perspective of shadow and light.

For the wooden rear cargo deck, I wanted to show some chipping and scratches in the paint finish that would expose the wood underneath. So I base coated this Tamiya Buff (XF-57).

Once this was dry I then sprayed a coat of AK Interactive Worn Effects. When this was dry I then painted the cargo deck in the base colour. The number and square on the drop sides of the rear deck was painted by hand with Humbrol enamels. Then, using water to activate the chipping solution under the paint, and a toothpick, scratches were added to the wooden deck til I got the level of wear and distress that I was after. Once I was happy with the final effect I gave the cargo section a quick coat of Gunze Clear Flat (H-20) to seal it.

The whole model received washes of raw umber and raw sienna oils. This was worked and blended into recesses and around details. I then gave the model a very light dry brushing, using Humbrol 94 with titanium white oils mixed into it.

I added light colour chips and scratches around the model with both a fine brush and small pieces foam sponge using Humbrol 150. Over these I then added darker scratches and chips using Vallejo 337 Highlights German Black, the whole time trying to make their placement both logical and in context and trying to avoid over doing it, which can be easy to



Copper wire was used to replace the plastic "U" shaped brackets for the chassis.



The guns have quite an intricate cooling system, so additional, more accurate plumbing was added.



The cab contains a large number of parts.



Construction of the rear bed was fairly straightforward.



The guns have been enhanced with brass wire, plastic rod and lead wire.



The truck received a base coat of 480 Green.



Tamiya acrylic XF-57 Buff was used to represent chipping of the cargo deck.



The whole model received washes of raw umber and raw sienna oils.

do. I tend to do this step of the weathering process (scratches and chips) over 2 or 3 sessions just to avoid getting mechanical about their application and placement. Next came some light streaking on the sides of the truck and the windows, using various shades of oils, blended and feathered with a flat brush dipped in white spirit, most of the excess removed on a towel and worked in vertical motion to give the effect of streaks and grimes moved by water and the elements. I then started adding various shades of pigments, concentrating more on the lower chassis. Areas where I wanted to show a build-up of mud and dirt I fixed the pigments in place with AK Interactive pigment fixer.

The gun was painted in pretty well the same manner as the truck itself although I varied the base colours just to avoid a uniform look between it and the truck. These

guns were moved around and mounted wherever, so it stood to reason there would be differences in their colour. I added various ammo boxes from MiniArt's Soviet Infantry Ammo Boxes set to the rear cargo tray, once again painted in various shades of browns to avoid a uniform look and feel and weathered with oils. The tarps were made from rolled Apoxie-Sculpt and paint with enamels. I gave the model a light spray of Tamiya Buff to give the feel of dust, concentrating on the lower hull and wheels.

BASE AND FIGURE

I made a simple base using plastic card to create the height.

The ground itself was created using Tamiya Soil Effect Dark Earth textured paint. I added two resin tank barriers from Plus Models Anti-Tank Concrete Barriers Pyramid Style (Set II), painted with

enamels and once again weathered with oils. I added grass from Joefix which was stuck down with white glue. I went over the grass with various shade of green to create a break-up of the monotone colour. I used an excellent figure from the Stalingrad Red Army Anti-Tank Team 1943-45, painted with enamels and oils and mounted on the base with a wire pin mounted through his foot. I glued the truck down using white glue to the base and when dry, went around with the Tamiya Buff, just to blend it all in together.

CONCLUSION

I really enjoyed this project and as mentioned earlier, the MiniArt kit as a beauty (breakage issues aside). With the release of MiniArt's plastic version of this model I can see myself tackling this subject matter again in the near future.

Happy modelling! ■

Modelspec

MiniArt 1:35 Gaz-AAA Cargo Truck 1937 Kit No. 35127

Materials:

Injection moulded grey & clear styrene, photo-etched

Accessories Used:

Tank Quadruple Maxim Anti-Aircraft System mod. 1931
MiniArt Soviet Infantry Ammo Boxes (Kit No. 35090)
Plus Models Anti-Tank Concrete Barriers Pyramid Style set II (Kit No. 131)
Stalingrad Red Army Anti-Tank Team 1943-45 (S-3508)

Tools & Materials Used:

Tamiya, Humbrol, Gunze, Vallejo paints, Windsor & Newton oils, AK Interactive pigments, pigment fixers and worn effects fluid, Iwata HP-C Plus & Custom Micron C airbrushes, Tamiya Extra Thin Cement, Revell Contacta Cement, Super glue, Joefix scenery grasses, Apoxie-Sculpt 2 part putty.

References:

Various Internet sites and pictures
Personal photo collection.

“With a parts count of 441 grey plastic parts spread over 16 sprues, 7 clear parts and a small etched fret, it has blown the opposition out of the water...”



The guns were painted a different shade of green for variety, and weathered with oils and chipping. AK Interactive pigments and fixers were used to achieve the dusty lower surfaces. I made a simple base for the model. The figure is from the Stalingrad Red Army Anti-Tank Team 1943-45.

MELBOURNE MODEL E

The Editor prowls the aisles of Australia's biggest model show, the Melbourne

1

THE AUSTRALIAN MODEL EXPO 2015

THE AUSTRALIAN OPEN
PLASTIC & SCALE MODEL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Model Expo 2015 gratefully acknowledge the following sponsors for supporting this event

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4



XPO 2015

Model Expo

The Melbourne Model Expo is held every Queen's Birthday long weekend at the Sandown racetrack in southeast suburban Melbourne. The large room was packed full this year, reflecting the mass of competition and display models.

710 models were in competition - almost to the record-breaking levels of 2014, when 720 entries graced the tables. Although the bulk were aircraft, there was an impressive selection of military and figure models in competition too.

The standard of competition was very high, including some imaginative dioramas and vignettes.

Traders were at full capacity as well, with many familiar companies and some new names appearing on the tables.

The doors opened officially at 11:00 am on Saturday, and the crowds streamed in. It was pleasing to see a large number of families and young people examining the displays. Younger modellers were also encouraged with a "make and take" table.

Expo also always offers a welcome opportunity to catch up with old friends and new acquaintances.

If you are an Australian local or visiting during early June, the Melbourne Model Expo is well worth a visit.

Thanks to the Model Expo Committee and members for their famous Melbourne hospitality during my brief visit.



1. Welcome to the show! 2. Friday afternoon, and the tables are ready for the first traders and competition entries. 3. Cartons fill the aisles during setup. 4. Gary Byk and Ed Russell from Red Roo Models.
5. To the victors, the spoils - quite a lot of them! 6. Modellers queuing to register competition entries. 7. Laurence Farrugia, this year's Show Director, registers an entrant. 8. The rush of public visitors.
9. For three days, this is the biggest hobby shop in the southern hemisphere!



10. Aeroworks made the trip from Adelaide with a big selection of discounted kits and accessories. **11.** Club and Special Interest Group displays were a highlight of the show. **12.** These cardboard ships were very impressive. **13.** Much time and effort had gone into many of the displays. **14.** Large scale radio control armour was on show and in action. **15.** Judges' briefing on Saturday night. **16.** Ron Puttee of Ronnel's Hobbies.





17. Dragon's 1:35 scale Sturmgeschütz III Ausf. A **18.** A nice winter finish on this Dragon Panzer III Ausf. J. **19.** Another Panzer III, but this time Tamiya's 1:35 scale ASLAV-PC. **20.** A lovely finish on Trumpeter's 1:35 scale ASLAV-25. **21.** Not surprisingly, there were plenty of Australian subjects on the tables. This is the Trumpeter 1:35 ASLAV-PC. **22.** Meng's 1:35 scale M2A3 BUSK III Bradley. **23.** Accurate Armour's Centurion AVRE 165 looks very sci-fi! **24.** Italeri's big 1:9 scale Triumph 3Hw motorcycle. **25.** Takom's recently released 1:35 Skoda 30.5 cm M1916 Howitzer. **26.** Trumpeter's rather spectacular BR-52 German WWII locomotive. **27.** M-ATV CCROWS II conversion based on the 1:35 scale Kinetic kit. **28.** Tamiya's Hanomag with Verlinden's 1:35 scale Sd.Kfz.251/20 Uhu conversion. **29.** Mirror Models' Diamond T.



Small Scale A round-up of the latest news and releases in 1:72 and 1:76

ZVEZDA

1:72 SCALE

ISU-152 SOVIET TANK DESTROYER

KIT NO. 5026

Zvezda continues their line of 'Snap Together' 1:72 scale vehicles with the impressive ISU-152. This tank destroyer carried a massive 152mm howitzer that fired a 44 kg projectile that could easily destroy a German Tiger or Panther. Built on a IS-2 chassis, the gun was housed in a heavily armoured casement much like a Jagtpanther or Jagtiter.

The kit comes in the standard end opening Zvezda box, and consists of a lower hull pan, two light grey sprues of parts, a black sprue of hard styrene tracks, a decal sheet and a set of instructions.

The moulding is up to the usual high Zvezda standard, with excellent detail, no flash or sink marks, and a very logical breakdown of parts, including separate suspension arms for the road wheels and separate pioneer tools. The lower hull is very well detailed with the correct offset torsion bars and finely detailed Zvezda hard styrene type which bend around the sprocket and idler wheels to be fixed in place by the return rollers. This system works extremely well and shows off the highly detailed tracks to advantage.

The upper hull, fenders and casement are moulded in one piece and show much fine detail, including open engine cooling louvers.

The one drawback being the closed crew hatches which would prove difficult to cut open. The main gun and mantlet are again very nicely represented and can be assembled to traverse and elevate. The complex muzzle brake is slide moulded, but an after market metal barrel would improve an already good model. The AA machine gun is also a tiny masterpiece, probably the best in this scale!

The decal sheet and instructions give options for three vehicles, one in overall Russian green, one in overall white and one with patchy white over green. No unit identification is given, so some research may be necessary for true accuracy.

These Zvezda kits are very impressive and will produce superb display models with careful painting and weathering.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to The Hobby Company Limited www.hobbyco.net

Steve Shrimpton



REVELL

1:72 SCALE

FENNEK RECON VEHICLE

KIT NO. 03136

The Fennek, or LGS Fennek, with LGS being short for Leichter Gepanzerter Spähwagen in German (Light Armoured Reconnaissance Vehicle), was named after the species of small desert fox.

It is a four wheeled armed reconnaissance vehicle produced by the German company Krauss-Maffei Wegmann, Dutch Defence Vehicle Systems and Turkish FNSS Defence Systems.

It was developed for both the German Army and Royal Netherlands Army to replace their current vehicles. *

Revell has long been the benchmark against which all 1:72 scale kits are measured, and this kit certainly keeps up that reputation. The kit comes in the familiar Revell end-opening box with great artwork, and consists of two sprues of green styrene, a strip of clear acetate for the windows, a small decal sheet and a set of instructions.

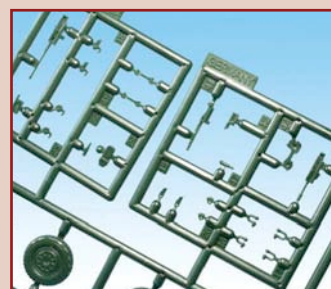
Albeit small, the quality of the moulding is superb with an abundance of surface detailing. All the roof hatches are open with separate lids, and the various options for the Dutch or German versions are included. The side doors are moulded closed but could be cut open reasonably easily, but as no interior is provided with the kit, this would have to be scratch-built. The wheels are moulded in two halves which gives good hub detail but compromises the tread pattern, so aftermarket replacements would greatly improve the kit for a top class display model.

The instructions are very clear and concise, and show the options for the different versions including two German and one Dutch. The small decal sheet contains all the markings necessary for the versions, including KFOR and ISAF insignia. Another great little kit from Revell.

Highly Recommended.

Revell model kits are available from all good toy and model retailers. For details visit www.revell.de/en, @RevellGermany or facebook.com/Revell

Steve Shrimpton



* Historical summary adapted from Wikipedia <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fennek>



REVELL

1:72 SCALE

SD. Kfz. 7/2

KIT NO. 03207

This new kit from Revell continues their excellent line of 1:72 scale vehicles, giving us almost three kits in one. This consists of the late war, armoured cab, Sd.Kfz. 7 medium half-track, with the 3.7cm Flak 36, and Sd.Ah.52 ammunition trailer. The five sprues of tan styrene come in the standard end opening Revell box, together with a small decal sheet and set of instructions.

The moulding is up to the usual Revell high standard with no flash, sink marks etc. and with excellent detailing and parts breakdown. The chassis and running gear is very well produced with the inner road wheels linked together to ensure perfect alignment. The tracks are moulded in hard styrene and can be bent around the running gear with the aid of hot water to soften them (boiling water should be avoided as this will melt the plastic!). The sump and gearbox are provided but no engine block, so this must be sourced from elsewhere if the bonnet is opened. The front wheels are reasonably good, but the limitations of moulding compromises the tread pattern, so replacements should be sourced for a top-class display model.

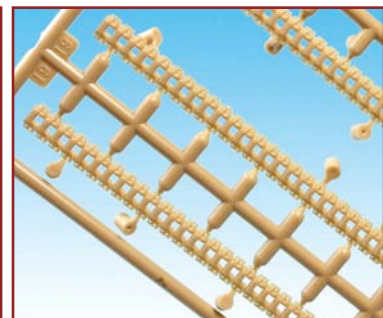
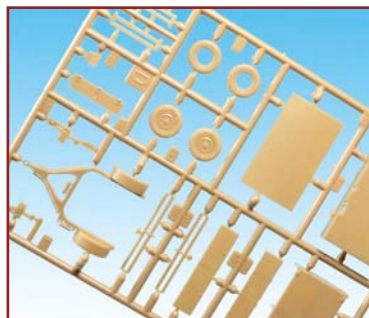
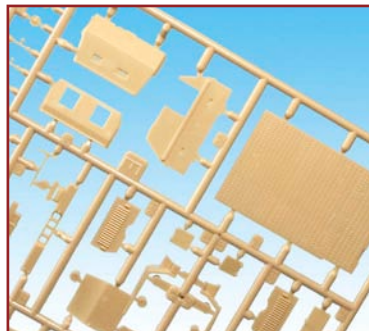
The armoured cab and load bed are also well modelled with abundant rivet detail and separate tools and driving controls. Possibly the best part of the kit is the 3.7cm Flak 36, which is complete kit in itself. The detailing is excellent and will really look the part on the vehicle, which may be posed with the wooden load bed sides up for transport or down for action. The addition of an aftermarket metal barrel for the Flak 36 would really put the icing on the cake for a fine display model. The final sprue is for the Sd.Ah.52 trailer, which, although fairly simple finishes off a very fine kit.

The small decal sheet consists mainly of number plates for the four versions shown in the instructions. Three in plain dark yellow, and one in standard three colour camouflage, in 1944/5.

This is another well produced Revell kit that should build into a superb display model. Highly Recommended.

Revell model kits are available from all good toy and model retailers. For details visit www.revell.de/en, @RevellGermany or facebook.com/Revell

Steve Shrimpton





Book Reviews



ALLIED ARMOUR IN THE BATTLE FOR CASSINO JANUARY - MAY 1944

BY JEFFREY PLOWMAN

ISBN: 978-83-60672-22-8

PUBLISHER: MODEL CENTRUM PROGRESS

This series of books continues to add to the growing stress on my bookcase shelves with this title being devoted to the Cassino Campaign fought in Italy in early 1944.

This campaign centred on the German defensive line pinned by the dominant feature of Monte Cassino and was a bitter campaign well suited to defence at which the German forces excelled. It involved the armed forces of many nations and this title concentrates on the armour of those Allied nations involved in the fighting, mainly Britain, Canada, New Zealand, France, Poland and the USA.

The book is typical of this excellent series and is in the main a photo collection supported by excellent captions, histories and excellent colour plates as reference for modellers. Despite this it is also recommended for the military history student or enthusiast as the text is well written, informative and the pictures give a great understanding of the campaign and its localised difficulties.

It follows the familiar layout by chapter and concentrates on the main fighting vehicles of the Allied nations involved including the M8 GMC, M7 SPG, the M4 Sherman (by far the most numerous), the Churchill, armoured cars, half tracks, M3/5 light tanks, M3 scout cars, M31 recovery vehicles, and others such as carriers and bulldozers including the armoured variants, medium tanks, M8, M10 & M7 SPs and the M32 recovery vehicle. The photos are clear with good informative captions but those who have read other titles in this series by the author will recognise a lot of the photographs. That said it is really useful having them all in the one title covering this period and there are many new photographs as well.

The colour plates are excellent and in 1:35 scale covering a good selection of the various nations vehicles in the 7 pages. These are mainly side profiles only but some front and rear ones are included. Regardless I have no hesitation of recommending this title to modellers, historians and enthusiasts. Highly Recommended.

Available online from Casemate Publishing www.casematepublishing.co.uk
Al Bowie

MEDIUM MARK A WHIPPET

OSPREY NEW VANGUARD NO 207

BY DAVID FLETCHER

ISBN: 978-1-78200-398-4

OSPREY PUBLISHING

David Fletcher continues to document the development and history of Britain's AFVs and his latest title is devoted to one of the most successful British Tanks of the First World War, the Medium Mark A, or Whippet as it is commonly known. This title comprises just 48 pages including colour plates and black and white photos.

The book examines the Whippet in Detail and incorporates a lot of previously unpublished information regarding its early service drawn from war diaries and battalion records. Additionally the title gives brief coverage of other important medium tanks of WWI including the Med B, C, D and the US Studebaker designs. This title adds to the picture of the genesis of Tank warfare of which the Whippet greatly contributed. The revised New Vanguard format has many new photographs and colour plates to support the informative narrative.

The book covers all the major developments over the life of the design and its operational service and the lessons learnt. It is broken into the following chapters covering:

1. The Whippet's Forerunner – the Triton Chaser.
2. Production of the Whippet.
3. Driving the Whippet
4. The Whippet in Action
5. Whippets Abroad
6. Medium B
7. Medium C: The Hornet
8. Medium D
9. The Studebaker Tank
10. Index

The Whippet was an important link in the development of the tank and concepts of armoured warfare and has had little written about it until now with the 100th Anniversary of the first tank action almost upon us.

The title is a good balance between the design and development but more importantly the concept and operational use of the design. It is well supported by excellent colour plates and good quality photos. It is an informative title that gives the reader a good insight into the British military's early stumbling steps in pioneering the tank as a potent weapon system in the desperation and horrors of the modern Battlefield of France and Belgium in WWI.

I'd highly recommend this one to historians, armour enthusiasts and modellers.

Highly Recommended.

Sample supplied by Osprey Publishing
www.ospreypublishing.com

Al Bowie



AMERICAN TANKS AND AFVS OF WORLD WAR II

BY MICHAEL GREEN

ISBN: NOT QUOTED

OSPREY PUBLISHING

I'll start this review by declaring I am not normally a fan of encyclopaedic volumes on such broad subjects as the authors can rarely do them justice in the amount of pages available but I will make an exception every now and again and this title is one of these. Michael Green has produced a number of quality titles on US armour subjects and his latest catalogues the US AFVs that fought in the Second World War in a well presented and easily readable title.

I was pleasantly surprised to see the quality of photos included were not just the "usual suspects" and that the text was informative and factual, providing a good basic history of the subjects backed by very good quality images. Not only does the author cover the main tanks the US fielded and supplied en masse to its allies but it covers supporting AFVs such as armoured cars, half tracks, armoured SP artillery, tank destroyers, armoured recovery vehicles and even tracked landing vehicles.

It also covers prototype vehicles that did not see service but had an influence on other designs. The text gives many examples of combat that these tanks took part in and provides lots of other interesting information regarding deployment and development.

The book is broken into the following Chapters:

1. Introduction – 2 pages
2. Early Medium Tanks (M2- M3) 40 pages
3. M4 Series Tanks – 72 pages
4. Light tanks – 52 pages
5. Heavy tanks – 32 pages
6. Tank Destroyers – 40 pages
7. Armoured Cars – 24 pages
8. Armoured Half Tracks – 28 pages
9. Self-Propelled Artillery – 36 pages
10. Landing Vehicles, Tracked – 30 pages
11. Conclusion – 4 pages
12. Bibliography
13. Glossary
14. Index

This book is not the be all and end all on the subject but serves as a great primer and ready reference, being well written with good information and supported by excellent photos which are a mix of period and preserved vehicles. I am certain that I will find myself going back to this title frequently for reference despite an extensive library on the subject. It would be a fantastic title to for a beginner as well as the jaded expert of the hobby.

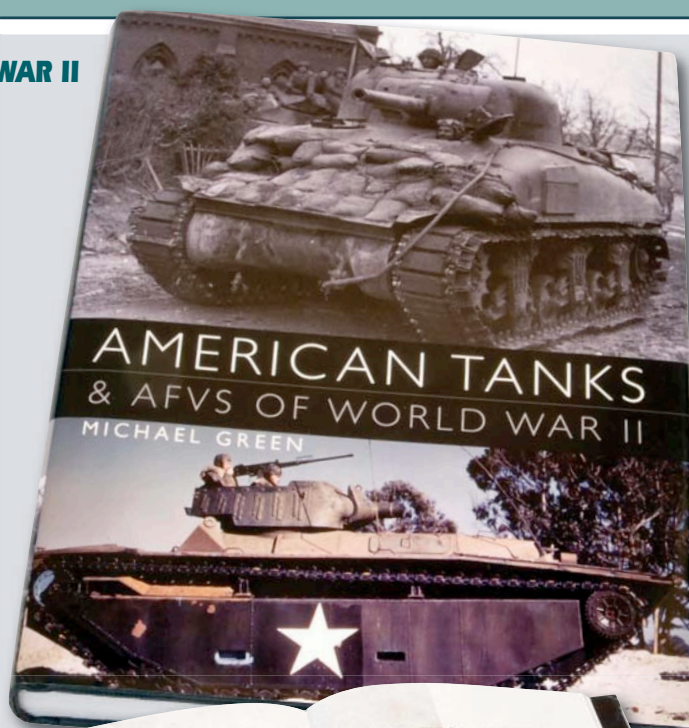
Books such as this, in particular Chamberlain and Ellis "British and American Tanks of World War Two" spawned my interest in the subject of armour way back in the early 1970s and they have continued to be a handy reference from time to time.

This title will be the Chamberlain and Ellis of today and I highly recommend adding one to the collection if you have an interest in US armour and AFVs of WWII. It is not a "Hunnicut" or "Son of Sherman", but it is an excellent general reference with clear and excellent photos. It should appeal to the beginner, modeller or armour enthusiast equally but is a great library starter title which you will find yourself going back to often. I thoroughly enjoyed reading this and learnt a lot along the way despite having an extensive library of titles devoted to Allied Armour of WWII.

Highly Recommended.

Review Sample supplied by Osprey Publishing
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Al Bowie



XURON CORP

TK3200 PROFESSIONAL MODELLERS TOOL KIT

ITEM NO.: UPC #90337

I started out in my working life as an apprentice jeweller. The one thing that the profession taught me was that with a proper tool almost anything was possible. In fact, we even used to create tools for repetitive jobs when required. With this in mind, I have an appreciation for a well-designed tool. Generally the when dealing with tools the cheaper it is, the shorter the life span.

To be honest, I had never heard of Xuron Corp before this review set turned up. Included in the set is a sprue cutter, needle nose pliers and photo-etch scissors.

The unique thing about the sprue cutters and indeed the photo etch scissors is the cutting edge. Most cutting pliers have an edge-to-edge cut that leads to excessive wear over time. The unique feature with these is how the blades bypass one another. They overlap, which results in a much cleaner and flusher cut. The photo-etch scissors have the same feature and are surgically sharp, resulting in a cut that is not only clean but remarkably flush.

Anyone who has followed my models in this magazine will no doubt be aware I like a bit of photo-etched foliage on my vehicles. These new products should make my next foliage job just that little bit easier. I really can't recommend these tools highly enough.

They are very well done, are of the highest quality and designed specifically for the modeller. Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Xuron Corp for the review samples www.xuron.com

Luke Pitt



AMMO OF MIG JIMINEZ

FRENCH TANK COLORS

ITEM NO. AMIG7110

Mig Jimenez is a very well known name in the model industry, and his new company Ammo is steaming ahead with great products always on the release, as with this one.

French Tank Colors will be welcomed by many, especially those interested in WWI and early WWII subjects.

The colours in this set cover tanks in the period of 1916 to 1940. There are six colours inside being the following. AMIG 060 Pale Green, AMIG061 Warm sand yellow, AMIG062 French Blue, AMIG063 Pale Grey, AMIG064 Brown Earth, AMIG065 Forest Green.

The paints come in a 17ml bottle with a stainless ball inside for quick stirring, packed in a nice glossy box with great artwork on both the front and rear.

The rear gives nice profile art of various vehicles with the colours required to paint them with. The paints can be used by either paintbrush or airbrush. Thinning will be required for the latter.

This is a great set and I believe it will be popular with many.

Recommended.

Thanks to AMMO of Mig Jimenez for the sample

www.migjimenez.com/en/

for the sample www.migjimenez.com/en/

Andrew Judson



AMMO OF MIG JIMINEZ

RUST EFFECTS COLORS

ITEM NO. AMIG7106

Here we have a great new set by AMMO, ideal for producing excellent rust effects.

Inside the glossy box are six 17ml bottles of the following colours:

Light Rust, Medium Rust, Dark Rust, Old Rust, Shadow Rust and Chipping.

Using the reference on the back of the box or just researching the subject, one will be able to produce some brilliant rust, corrosion and chipping effects with these paints. As usual, Mig has come up with another great product that I'm sure many will add to their collection. Recommended.

Thanks to AMMO of Mig Jimenez for the sample www.migjimenez.com/en/

Andrew Judson



AMMO OF MIG JIMINEZ

BRITISH AND GERMAN CAMOUFLAGE

TANKS COLOURS FROM 1914 TO 1918

ITEM NO. AMIG7111

With the subject of World War One being a very popular subject now due to the great kits being released, Ammo has released this set spot on time for those interested in both British and German topics. Great idea.

Inside the glossy box are six colours as follows:

AMIG074 Green Moss, AMIG075 Stone Grey, AMIG076 Brown Soil, AMIG077 Dull Green, AMIG078 Ocher Earth and AMIG079 Brown Clay.

These are all in a 17ml bottle with a mixing ball inside. They may be brush painted or sprayed, although thinning will be required for the latter choice.

On the back of the box are some very nice profile drawings of WWI tanks with the colours required to paint these, very handy indeed.

As I have said, I am sure these will be very popular and helpful to all WWI enthusiasts. I highly recommend this set to all.

Recommended.

Thanks to AMMO of Mig Jimenez for the sample www.migjimenez.com/en/

Andrew Judson





AMMO BY MIG INTERIOR COLORS GERMAN TANKS 1939-1945 AMIG 7108

German subjects have always been popular amongst armour modellers, and there are many kits, conversions and paints out there for them. This is not the first set to be done, although I would be brave enough to say its one of the better sets on it subject, being interior colours.

Mig is no stranger to building German tanks and has more than researched the subject.

In this set there are six 17ml bottles of the following colours:

AMIG014 Rotbraun (Floor), AMIG017 Cremeweiss (interior), AMIG080 Bright Green (Gearbox), AMIG096 Crystal Green (Periscope), AMIG908 (Engines), AMIG912 Red Brown (Leather Parts).

On the back of the box is a detailed list for the use of these paints and where they are to be used, and also a brief explanation about how Mig came up with these colours and some small tips on enhancing with other colours as well. If you have a German tank with an interior, seriously have a look at this set, it will come in very handy.

Recommended.

Thanks to AMMO of Mig Jimenez for the sample www.migjimenez.com/en/

Andrew Judson



AMMO OF MIG JIMENEZ

PIGMENTS

ITEM NOS. AMIG 3019, 3017, 3016, 3110

Mig Jimenez has always been known for bringing out excellent weathering products, and was one of the first to bring out his original range of pigments when he was with Mig Productions. Now he has come out with a new range under his new banner AMMO by Mig.

Here I have four colours to examine, being:

AMIG3019 Army Green, AMIG3017 Primer Red,

AMIG3016 White and AMIG3010 Concrete.

These are all handy colours to have and may be used for many a range of effects, from colour variation, dust, ash, rust, dirt - the list goes on. These are very nice products and work well on all flat surfaces, especially acrylics. If you haven't used pigments before, then these would be a great product to start with.

Recommended.

Thanks to AMMO of Mig Jimenez for the sample www.migjimenez.com/en/

Andrew Judson



AMMO OF MIG JIMENEZ D.A.K. COLORS - SMART SET ITEM NO. AMIG7102

AMMO of Mig Jimenez has been releasing many new ranges and products recently, and here we have one of the new sets from the Smart Set Range. These are a great idea, giving you three 17 ml bottles of the basic colours needed to paint your current project. Here we have a set for D.A.K. colours with the following inside:

AMIG008 RAL7021 Dunkelgrau, AMIG009 RAL7027 Sandgrau and AMIG016 RAL8020 Gelbbraun.

As mentioned, these are the basic colours to get you on the way, but a great way to have all in the one little set.

Recommended.

Thanks to AMMO of Mig Jimenez for the sample www.migjimenez.com/en/

Andrew Judson



AMMO OF MIG JIMENEZ AFGHANISTAN WAR 1979-89 - SMART SET ITEM NO. AMIG7139

With many companies coming out with great Russian model subjects, many from the 1970s and 1980s, this set will come in handy for sure, especially if you want to depict a vehicle that served in the Afghanistan campaign.

Inside the clear plastic box are three 17ml bottles with the following colours:

AMIG057 Yellow Grey, AMIG932 Russian Base(ZIS508, and AMIG061 Warm Sand Yellow.

As with all smart sets, these are the basic colours needed to get you started and on the right track to making a great model.

Recommended.

Thanks to AMMO of Mig Jimenez for the sample www.migjimenez.com/en/

Andrew Judson



AMMO OF MIG JIMENEZ BUNDESWEHR AFGHANISTAN SCHEME - SMART SET ITEM NO. AMIG7104

The Afghanistan War has really made an impact within the modelling industry, with many kits of vehicles used by forces there from around the world. This particular set from the Smart Range covers colours used for the German Bundeswehr for vehicles such as Boxers, Fuchs, etc.

Inside the standard clear plastic packing are three 17ml bottles with the following colours:

AMIG026 RAL8031 F9 German Sand Brown, AMIG027 RAL8039 F9 German Sand beige and AMIG028 RAL7050 F7 German Grey Beige.

Using these three colours will get you on the way to painting up a nice modern German subject from the current Afghanistan War. This is a very nice set indeed.

Recommended.

Thanks to AMMO of Mig Jimenez for the sample www.migjimenez.com/en/

Andrew Judson

I'M JUST WINGIN' IT MAN!

You know, one of the great benefits of growing older is that you realise that 90 percent of the population just "wing it" when giving answers, dispensing advice or even doing their job.

I am a great fan of old black and white movies and one movie in particular always brought a smile to my face as well as reinforcing the point that this little rant is trying to achieve. The movie dates back to 1948 and was called "Mr Blandings Builds his Dream House". It starred Cary Grant and Myrna Loy and the plot centred around a couple building their dream house in the country. One scene in particular made me smile the first time I saw it. It featured Myrna Loy explaining to a builder what colours the interior of the house should be painted. She had gathered together little pieces of material and colour swatches of all the colours she wished to be featured in the house, explaining to the builder in great detail the

little nuances and shades of colour she wanted to include with the build. While explaining this, the camera focused on the builder's facial expression. It showed expressions of interest, enthusiasm and engagement. When she is called away the painter then asks the builder what colours should he paint the interior? The builder turns and says "paint the kitchen yellow, the hall light brown and the dining room blue". Now the reason I mention this is that I often hear the question, "what shade did you use for this or that?" I have seen some responses that have all the hallmarks of Myrna Loy's explanation to the builder. I know this probably goes against the grain with some, but I'm pretty much like the builder with paint shades in that regard. Sure there are various shades of green for instance, but dude, if you want me to explain the "FS" shade or anything



like that don't ask me!

I'm more of a "yeah, I added a bit of yellow to the green" type of guy.

This whole rant brings us to the term "master modeller". Who the heck is that guy? A master modeller to me, would be someone like Yoda from Star Wars, dispensing knowledge freely and being able to back it up with an outstanding skill set. Very few of us fit into that category. Most basically wing it!

Until Next Time
Luke (with tongue firmly in cheek) Pitt

TANK WORKSHOP

1:48 SCALE

CHEVY CLASS 135 CRASH TRUCK
KIT NO. TWS48058

The Chevy Crash Truck was used on most US operated airfields during the Second World War. Until now, this particular truck has not been freely available in 1:48 scale. This new kit by Tank Workshop is a nice piece. The kit comprises around 40 cast resin parts. The casting for the most part is done very well. The master from which the castings are taken is a little rough in places, the undersides of the front mud guards for example were lumpy but this can be forgiven as they always accumulated dirt a grime.

The front cab is a delight as is as one piece and surprisingly has no casting blocks, which is a nice touch).

The chassis is also cast as one piece onto which all the associated undercarriage hardware is placed.

The chassis on my example was warped but when dipped in boiling water it quickly reverted back to original flat shape. The wheels are the best examples of type I have seen in 1:48 scale.

With a little work, this can be made in to a fine model. This kit would be perfect of any Second World War airfield diorama.

Recommended.

Thanks to The Tank Workshop for the sample www.tankworkshop.com

Luke Pitt



HAULER

1:48 SCALE

DINGO SCOUT CAR UPDATE
ITEM NO. HLX48359

One of the recent surprise 1:48 scale releases from Tamiya was the Dingo Scout Car.

Tamiya has done a pretty good job of it too, but some of the details are a little heavy in their execution. Hauler has yet again come to our rescue and has provided a quite nice update for this iconic British vehicle.

The set comprises basically all that needs to be replaced on the kit itself. If you're like me and want that scale appearance, the set consists of a radio and protective guard, support shelf, mud flaps, two very nice 2 gallon flimsy's, rear grille work, front unditching ramp, road wheel rings and most of the smaller fitting associated with the vehicle.

This is quite an impressive release from Hauler and well worth it.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Hauler for the sample www.hauler.cz

Luke Pitt



WARGAMES FACTORY FIGURE SETS 1:56 SCALE (ALTHOUGH THEY LOOK A LOT MORE LIKE 1:48) VARIOUS SETS

The box tells me these are 1:56 scale but I am here to tell you, they are really smallish 1:48 scale, and are very good for what they are!

Case in point, when I received these samples I opened the boxes not really expecting much, but brother was I in for a nice surprise. I have showed them both the Editor and another reviewer and both have quickly taken down the details and have ordered sets!

Why you may ask?

Well, firstly they offer outstanding value for money with each set containing 30 multi part figures, but more importantly each set has 30 heads that can be used on other 1:48 scale figures. The detail on these heads is very good. Admittedly, they seem a little big for the torsos supplied but perfect for our needs.

The torsos are more Tamiya in size but bulkier.

Here my friends, is the kicker. With a little modification (by extending the torso on the belt line and knee joint) these will blend happily with any aftermarket 1:48 scale figure. The detail is pretty good also. Some of the guns are a little oversize, but some, like the German Luger and Mausers, are right on the money.

You know, every so often something comes up in this scale you know is going to work and parts of these sets are quite frankly a god send. Currently three sets are offered with American, Russian and German figures offered.

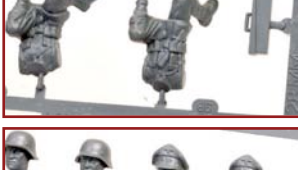
Don't be off put by the lousy box art or the scale, these are usable!

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Wargames Factory for the samples

www.wargamesfactory.com

Luke Pitt



A size comparison of the bodies of Wargames Factory and Tamiya.

Luke Pitt explores the wonderful world of 1:48 scale models and after market.

CAST 48 1:48 SCALE FIGURES

Tomas has sent along some of his figures for review this month and I must say that I'm impressed with the detail and stance of his figures.

The father and son combination, where the little boy sits on his father's shoulders, is a wonderfully original and natural pose and with detail painting would bring life to any situation it was placed.

The German Panzer crew are again lovely pieces and all exhibit fine detail and are very well cast.

I like these figures as they have a different style than most and show a certain "humanity" (for want of a better word) Cast 48th product is a little thin on the ground but you can send Tomas a message on his web site on

<http://www.cast48.com> or

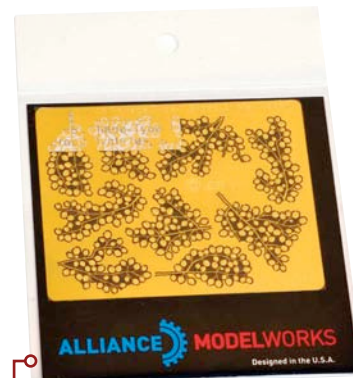
purchase from "Track 48" on the following link; <http://www.track48.com/shop/home.php>.

Recommended.

Thanks to Cast 48 for the samples

www.cast48.com

Luke Pitt



ALLIANCE MODEL WORKS 1:48 SCALE PHOTO ETCHED FOLIAGE SETS

Most of you who follow my builds will no doubt be aware that I like a bit of foliage on my vehicles. It adds something special and is a focal point of interest. To be honest, I've tried most of what is on offer but have not until now used the Model Alliance variety. The first thing that strikes you about these sets is the detail. The leaves have veins on them and the branches are thin. Both of these features set them apart from the rest. The leaves are a little large for my liking as I prefer the look of smaller leaves, but these are perfectly acceptable for the scale. I will be road testing these in a future edition of the magazine so stay tuned. Our Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Alliance Modelworks for the review samples www.am-works.com

Luke Pitt



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Next Issue

On sale 6th August, 2015

LITTLE STUGGY

Tamiya's 1:48 Sturmgeschutz III Ausf. G with the Atak zimmerit conversion.

FOR YOUR SAFETY

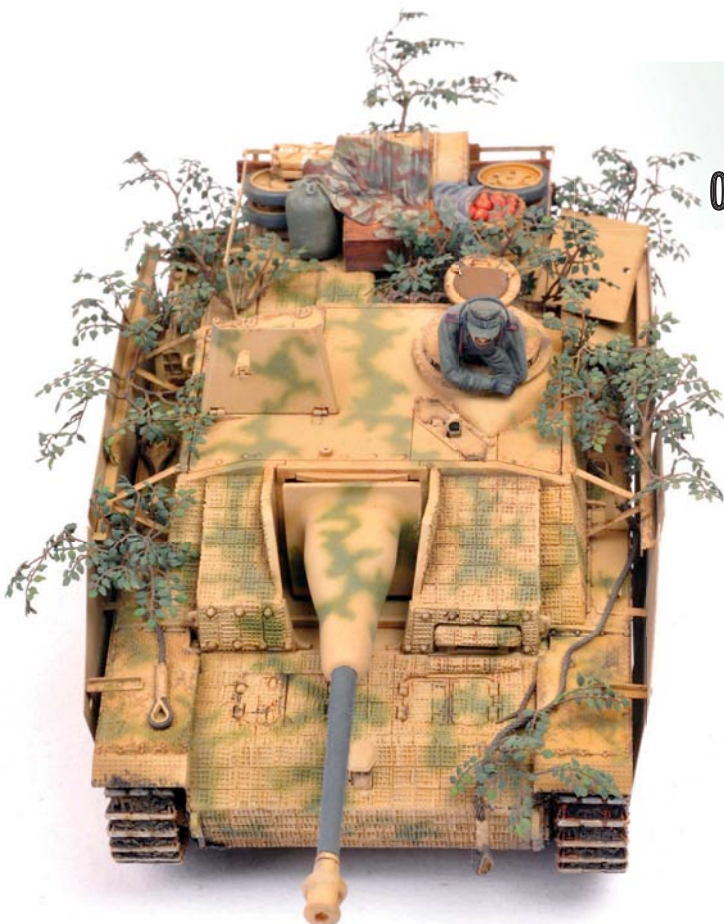
Don't forget, when using solvents such as glues, paints, thinners and cleaning agents, always ventilate your work area thoroughly and wear a face mask.

When using power tools, side cutters or any tool that can suddenly break or create high-speed airborne particles, wear approved eye protectors with hard, clear lenses. Please always model in safety!



...and much more!

Due to many influencing factors, we cannot guarantee the appearance of the above projects, but we'll try our best!



I'M A CHALLENGER TOO

Brett Green's 1:35 scale Trumpeter Challenger 2 enhanced with parts from Accurate Armour, plus a Think Tank reference article.



KING TIGER 003

Tamiya's 1:35 scale Tiger II Gallery by Chris Wauchop

MADE IN CHINA, DESTROYED IN IRAQ

Federico Collada demonstrates burnt painting techniques on his Brocno 1:35 YW531.





UPGRADED 8-RADS

Tamiya adds and revises parts from Italeri's 8-Rad kits for their own unique releases.

The Sd.Kfz. 234 (Sonderkraftfahrzeug 234, or Special Purpose Vehicle 234), was a family of armoured cars designed and built in Germany during World War II.

The vehicles were lightly armoured, armed with a 20, 50 or 75 mm main gun, and powered by a Tatra V12 diesel engine.

The vehicle had four-wheel steering and was able to quickly change direction thanks to a second rear-facing driver's seat; the transmission had six forward and reverse gears, with traction over the eight wheels.

The first version to enter production was the Sd.Kfz. 234/2, often referred to as Puma. This had a turret armed with a 5cm L/60 gun, which was originally intended for the VK 1602 Leopard light tank. It was produced from late 1943 to mid 1944.

This variant was replaced in production by the second version, the Sd.Kfz. 234/1, which had a simpler open turret armed with a 2 cm KwK 38 gun. It was manufactured from mid 1944 to early 1945. *

Italeri released their 1:35 scale Sd.Kfz. 234/2 Puma back in 1982. At the time it was a well-received kit. Over the years, Italeri has added new sprues to create the 234/1 with the 2 cm open turret (1996); and the Sd.Kfz. 234/4 with the 7.5 cm PaK 40 gun (1992).

These kits were superseded in terms of detail and accuracy by the Dragon Sd.Kfz.234 family,

first released in 2006 and with new variants appearing until the present day, but the Italeri kit has remained a good value, low price and easier to build option.

Tamiya has now entered the fray with their re-boxing of two of the Italeri kits. Each of the kits includes new sprues with improved parts plus bonus figures.

SD.KFZ. 234/1. KIT NO. 37019

This kit provides the original three sprues from the Italeri release, this time presented in dark yellow, including injection moulded plastic wheels and tyres and basic interior detail.

Suspension is nicely detailed, but the steering is fixed in the straight-ahead position.

Tamiya has upgraded the kit with two new sprues to replace the kit visors, jerry cans, headlights, aerial base and on-vehicle equipment. These are all significant improvements over the kit parts.

As a bonus, Tamiya has also included their 1:35 scale DKW NZ 350 motorcycle and three figures - a rider and two crew figures for the vehicle. The figures and the bike originally appeared in 2002. The figure detail and facial features are good. Elements of the bike are simplified, including the heavy spokes, but as a result it will be a fast and easy build.

The German Infantry Equipment sprue is also included.

The distinctive open turret is supplied with photo-etched mesh - another new upgrade from Tamiya - as well as photo-etched

straps and buckles for the new jerry cans.

Markings are supplied for two vehicles and three motorcycles.

SD.KFZ. 234/2 PUMA KIT NO. 37018

Similar to the above package, Tamiya's Puma includes the original three Italeri sprues. Two of these are identical to the 234/1, with a different sprue containing the turret parts.

Once again, Tamiya offers the two new sprues with the improved visors, jerry cans, headlights, aerial base and on-vehicle equipment, plus a photo-etched fret with straps and buckles.

Two Tamiya figures are also included. These date back to the release of the landmark 1:35 scale Panther in 1994, and they really represent an earlier generation of Tamiya figures. The poses work well with the Puma, but I think that the heads should be replaced.

CONCLUSION

It cannot be denied that Dragon has the edge in terms of detail, but it is still nice to see these Italeri kits upgraded with Tamiya detail and bonus parts. They will be easy to build, and will look good when fitted with the improved Tamiya parts. ■

Thanks to Tamiya for the samples www.tamiya.com Tamiya kits are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited www.hobbyco.net



The common upper hull.



The hull bottom and mudguards are common to both kits too.



The wheels are presented in injection moulded plastic.



The Sd.Kfz. 234/1 20mm open turret.



Some of the Tamiya-moulded improved parts.



Tamiya's new visors.

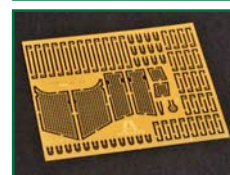
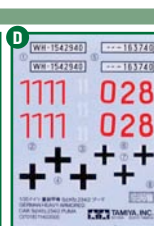


Photo-etch including mesh for the turret, a gunsight and straps.



A. Box art for the Puma.
B. The Puma turret sprue.
C. The older Tamiya Commander figure supplied with the Puma kit.
D. Puma kit decals.

* Historical summary adapted from Wikipedia http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SdKfz_234

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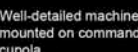
• Authentic-looking 1/35 scale
British Heavy Tank Conqueror

Two views of a 1/35 scale model of a British Heavy Tank Conqueror. The top view shows the tank from a high angle, highlighting its large turret and long main gun. The bottom view shows the tank from a side angle, emphasizing its heavy armor and wide tracks. The model is painted in a light grey color with some brown and black details.


- One-piece L1 120mm gun barrel



- Well-detailed machine gun mounted on commander's cupola




* Gun barrel travel lock made from multiple pieces for enhanced level of detail



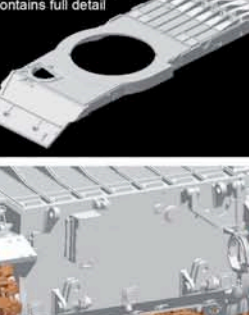
Two views of the rotating commander's cupola on turret. The top view shows the cupola with its various hatches and periscopes. The bottom view shows the cupola from a different angle, highlighting the clear parts for the periscopes.

- Well-detailed rotating commander's cupola on turret
- Clear parts included for cupola periscopes

• Lower hull and integral fenders made via slide mold




• Full detail rendered on bottom of lower hull




- Single-piece upper hull contains full detail
- Highly detailed rear-hull plate




- Fender supports and bolt detail sharply represented



- Clear-plastic parts for headlights lenses
- True-to-scale protective guards for headlights




- Complex shape of turret recreated as single-piece element thanks to slide molds



• Cable reel engineered with great detail


- Full detail rendered on




- Highly detailed rear-hull plate




- Clear-plastic parts for headlights lenses
- True-to-scale protective guards for headlights



- Phenomenal detail on items like tow cable brackets and wing mirrors



• Brackets for side skirts are fully detailed



• All hatches on turret have option of being shown open/closed

• Stowage boxes on fenders are separate pieces for maximum realism



• Tow hooks and pintle on glaci are correctly presented



• DS Tracks offer convenient and swift track assembly



- Crisply detailed elements such as exhaust pipe and spare track links



- Complex running gear and Horstmann-type suspension fully represented in amazing detail


• Separate on-vehicle tools and spare track links provided



- Road wheels, sprockets, idler wheels and suspension made from multiple parts to maximize accuracy



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No.56, 18th Dragoon Regiment

Fighting with Valor

1/35 Military Miniature Series French Medium Tank SOMUA S35 (Item 35344)

May 1940: as WWII swung brutally and swiftly into full action on the Western Front, SOMUA S35 tanks formed the core of French forces in the Battle of Hannut, Belgium. Developed from the mid-1930s as a cavalry tank, the S35 used a number of cast metal parts to up production efficiency; the bolted cast hull design was ahead of its time. With a 47mm main gun and a 190hp engine from which it could squeeze 40km/h, the SOMUA S35 was an effective package. The roughly 430 examples produced between 1936 and June 1940 proved a worthy adversary for German forces. Now, this tough French tank joins the famed Tamiya 1/35 Military Miniature Series.

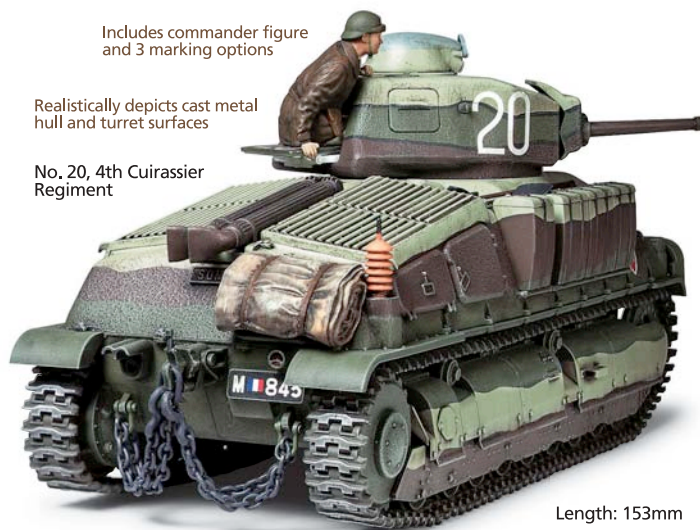


Extensive measurement of a real SOMUA S35 led to this highly accurate recreation of the rounded cast metal hull and turret. ★Features realistic depictions of cast metal surfaces. ★Intuitive parts layout efficiently captures the bogey suspension and side armor plates with aplomb. ★Link-type assembly tracks provide excellent realism. ★Metal parts are included to recreate tow chains. ★Comes with a commander figure to be positioned in the turret, plus 3 marking options and color camouflage pattern reference illustrations.

Includes commander figure and 3 marking options

Realistically depicts cast metal hull and turret surfaces

No. 20, 4th Cuirassier Regiment



Length: 153mm

FRENCH MEDIUM TANK SOMUA S35

Selected French subjects from the Tamiya 1/35 scale Military Miniature Series

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1/35
SCALE

★Images show assembled and painted model kits.
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French Battle Tank B1 bis (Item 35282)



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French Infantry Set (Item 35288)